

Monday December 9 1996

Abu Dhabi D 6.50	Greenland D 4.00	Switzerland S 1.50
Algeria L 2.20	Hong Kong HK 3.25	Taiwan T 1.00
Andorra A 1.00	India IN 1.00	Thailand TH 1.00
Antigua G 1.00	Indonesia ID 1.00	Turkey TL 1.00
Australia AU 1.00	Italy I 1.00	USA US 1.00
Bahrain B 1.00	Japan J 1.00	USA US 1.00
Belgium B 1.00	Kenya K 1.00	USA US 1.00
Belize B 1.00	Lebanon L 1.00	USA US 1.00
Bolivia B 1.00	Malaysia M 1.00	USA US 1.00
Bosnia B 1.00	Mexico M 1.00	USA US 1.00
Brazil B 1.00	Netherlands G 4.00	USA US 1.00
Canada C 1.00	New Zealand N 1.00	USA US 1.00
Cayman C 1.00	Norway N 1.00	USA US 1.00
China C 1.00	Poland P 1.00	USA US 1.00
Czech C 1.00	Portugal P 1.00	USA US 1.00
Denmark D 1.00	Romania R 1.00	USA US 1.00
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New Zealand N 1.00	USA US 1.00	USA US 1.00
Norway N 1.00	USA US 1.00	USA US 1.00
Poland P 1.00	USA US 1.00	USA US 1.00
Portugal P 1.00	USA US 1.00	USA US 1.00
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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,731

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

The return of The Girlie Show

Media

SportExtra

Embracing democracy



Two students find time for romance during another protest march by tens of thousands against the regime of President Slobodan Milosevic in the Serbian capital Belgrade. Full report, page 2. PHOTOGRAPH BY Mladen Antonov

Tory civil war: Euro-sceptics plot revenge

Major fails to quell 'maverick' MPs

Rwan MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

ENRAGED Tory Euro-sceptics threatened revenge against John Major last night after he uncompromisingly warned them their "savage" civil war risked forcing an early general election.

Mr Major, in his most confident display for months, dismissed the most militant of the Euro-sceptics as "a few mavericks in Parliament" out of a government's glory.

With two Tory backbenchers threatening to resign the party whip, he said: "If they don't support us, then we may have a general election but that is in the nature of politics. But I am not going to be held to ransom by any single backbencher on any issue."

At the end of one of his worst weeks in office, that saw a Tory backbencher Sir John Sorrell withdraw co-operation, and the start of one that could be equally as bad, he rejected calls to sack the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, or to drop the Government's wait-and-see policy on a single currency.

A Central Office source said later that about 90 per cent of Tories would be in agreement with Mr Major. But that looked over-optimistic last night.

The most extreme Tory Euro-sceptics could not contain their rage. Sir George Gardiner, who will defy the party whip on Europe from

now on, summed it up by saying: "The strife goes on."

Terry Dicks, another rebel, was livid about what he described as Mr Major's snide remarks about him and other Euro-sceptics: "I am seething."

Threatening to leave the party as well as to resign the whip, he said: "Right now, I am in two minds whether to tell him to stuff his government and his party. That is my immediate reaction, but it is not a wise one."

He said there were no serious Commons votes until mid-January and therefore there might not be much point in making a gesture by resigning the whip now.

More worrying for Mr Major is that senior Conservative backbenchers, who in public sounded moderate, were in private equally seething.

"He has just declared war on the Tory Party," a former cabinet minister said. "He has shown himself to be at odds with the party in the country."

John Redwood, around whose banner the Euro-sceptics are uniting, was dismissive of the Prime Minister for failing to criticise other European countries over their apparent attempts to fudge on the criteria for joining a single currency.

The Euro-sceptics appear to be plotting a show of strength this week, either by exploiting a two-day Commons debate on Europe or some extra-parliamentary action, such as publishing a list of MPs who will promise in their election manifestos never to vote for a

"If they don't support us, then we may have a general election but that is in the nature of politics. But I'm not going to be held to ransom by any single backbencher on any issue."

John Major, speaking to the BBC yesterday

single currency. Lord Tebbit, the former party chairman and leading sceptic, estimated yesterday that the number could be close to 100.

The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, said Euro-sceptic reaction showed Mr Major to be "more exposed and beleaguered" than he had been even on the previous day.

In spite of Mr Major's tough language, a compromise is being prepared behind the scenes. Mr Major gave no significant ground to the sceptics during an interview with BBC's On The Record, but

party strategists were briefing afterwards that the Prime Minister will become increasingly strident about the chances of other European countries meeting the necessary criteria for joining a single currency. This would allow him to say that joining a single currency is not a realistic option for years to come.

The strategists said he could not say this yesterday because it would unnecessarily have annoyed Britain's European partners in the run-up to the two-day European Union summit in Dublin, beginning on Friday. But the line would be heard more often and loudly in the months to come and had been agreed with Mr Clarke.

In the interview, Mr Major called on his colleagues to trust him: He had set out the Government's policy on Europe many times. Britain will not rule out joining a single currency this side of a general election because it wanted to remain part of the negotiations.

Looking strained at the beginning of the interview, he became increasingly relaxed during it. He insisted he had not been boxed in by the two leading pro-Europeans in the Cabinet, Mr Clarke and Michael Heseltine.

The German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and his French counterpart, Jacques Chirac, are scheduled to meet today for discussions about tactics for the Dublin summit, with speculation that they might try to ambush Mr Major.

Leader comment, page 8; Ros Coward, page 9

Labour star takes it on the chin

Spin doctors tackle five o'clock shadow cabinet member

Rwan MacAskill

WITH the Battle of Tony's Hair behind them, Labour's spin doctors have shifted to new ground. They are now engaged in the Battle of the Beard.

Alistair Darling, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, has had a good fortnight, impressing his colleagues with strong performances on television and radio over the Budget. Stardom beckons, with a prominent role in Labour's election campaign in the offing.

But there is a problem with his face. Mr Darling has a beard, a neat, carefully trimmed one, the sort scheming Medici courtiers probably had, the kind that some



IN... Frank Dobson "written off for beauty"



OUT... Alistair Darling "looks too trimmed"

Labour spin doctors think makes him look untidy and untrustworthy.

Mr Darling, at home in Stockbridge, Edinburgh, acknowledged yesterday that he had come under pressure from the party to shave off his beard.

said, playing for time. The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, has been blamed for putting Mr Darling under pressure, but how his colleagues' look and dress is not something that normally excites Mr Brown. Suspicion has fallen instead on the party's spin doctors, mainly Mr Brown's press officer, Charlie Whelan, who has himself had to make sacrifices for the

party, removing an earring from his left lobe on joining Mr Brown's office.

A Labour source denied the party was anti-beard, which will be a relief to shadow cabinet members such as Robin Cook, Frank Dobson and David Blunkett.

The problem with Mr Darling, the source said, was not that he had a beard but that it was such a carefully trimmed beard you could not be sure he had one.

"It looks like stubble or that he hadn't bothered shaving," Mr Dobson, who has a bushy beard, said no pressure had been applied to him to become clean-shaven. "If it was good enough for Abe Lincoln, it is good enough for anyone."

He added that as far as the party's spin doctors were concerned, he had been "written off for beauty purposes".

No pressure has been applied from the leader's office. Alistair Campbell, Tony Blair's press officer, is thought to be relaxed about Mr Darling's beard: it looks distinguished, a source close to Mr Blair said.

Leader comment, page 8

Good nude for winner of postcard competition

Dean Glaister Arts Correspondent

WELL, it wasn't by David Bowie, Frank Auerbach, or RB Kitaj. But the unsigned postcard bought by the Guardian at a Royal College of Art exhibition and featured in Thursday's paper (right) is almost certainly worth more than the £20 paid for it.

The watercolour is by Stan Smith, a respected British artist based in London, and a former teacher at the RCA. The Guardian bought three other postcards — a landscape by Penny Rogers, a line drawing by David Shovel, and David Bowie's homage to Damien Hirst, featuring a print of a sheep in a tank.

Readers were invited to suggest a title for the watercolour — many thanks to the 850 who replied. Several titles featured "glove", such as "Glove's Labours Lost"



and "Gloves off". Marigold rubber gloves featured heavily, with some opting for "Preparing To Do The Washing Up".

Other favourite themes were green, with "Green-sleeves" and "Green-fingers" appearing regularly, and nursing, with many unprintable entries of the "Preparations for an Examination" variety.

Following lengthy consideration, Michael James, from Leeds, won for "Today's Nude in Brief". Congratulations, the postcard is in the post.

Sharp buyer, page 5

Inside Britain World News Finance Sport

Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10

62

Crossword 15; Weather 16

Radio 16; TV 16

50

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The Guardian

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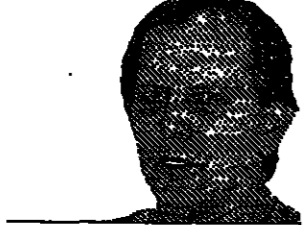
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The slow and not quite sober road home

On a cold, dark night on Tyneside, the highway patrol is out and about, recalling drivers like the one who fell out of his car leaving two empty vodka bottles behind

Monday sketch



Peter Hetherington

CLOSING time on an arctic night and Tango Delta Victor is sweeping through pub and club land. Along the prom at Tynemouth, small processions of revellers are shuffling, swaying and singing their way home, occasionally lurching from pavement to road and dodging traffic with a death-defying drunken bravado.

Many other roads, for once, are fairly quiet, which makes life a little easier for patrolmen Mick Whittam and Ken Ackinlose in their high-powered Mondeos. They can quickly spot a suspect vehicle, or driver—a faulty headlamp here, a dodgy brake light there, and the tell-tale signs of a car crawling home suspiciously slowly.

And then, suddenly, it ap-

pears, the very stereotype: windows steamed-up, indicators idle, and worse still, a snail-like speed that prompts the PCs to switch on the blue lights and sound the siren.

PC Ackinlose, 14 years a highway patrolman, approaches the car and starts to question the driver.

"I'm just wondering—how many pints are you allowed these days?" the latter asks with a hint of injured innocence.

PC: "Basically you're not ..."

Driver: "Oh, I'm in trouble then 'cos I've had two pints?"

PC: "It depends on what you've had to eat, whether you're used to drinking a couple of pints, but the safest way is to have nothing."

Driver: "Well, that's it. I've had it. I've been driving very carefully."

PC: "Well, that's what drew our attention. You were doing less than 20 mph and you didn't indicate when you came across the roundabout with us behind you. That's why I stopped you, and I smelled the alcohol on your breath."

Driver: "Well, yes. Ah well. Goodnight, goodbye..." He appears resigned to losing his licence.

Then comes the official warning that an arrest might follow a failure to give a breath sample, then the test



PC Ackinlose administers the alcotest on his North Tyneside patch

PHOTOGRAPH: WILL WALKER

itself, which proves quite an ordeal. And then the surprise. After four attempts, the alcotest at last provides a reassuring beep to indicate that it has accepted the sample. It registers "A".

"Well, you haven't passed and you haven't failed," PC Ackinlose tells the startled driver. "You're right on the

borderline. Another half pint would have put you over the top ..."

The driver is let off with a warning and told to leave his car and walk home. "I think he got a bit of a shock," says the PC with heavy understatement.

It has been a moderately successful night, so far, with Mick testing four motorists and then finding all their samples negative on the latest alcotest meter, son of breathalyser—a small, bagless device, measuring nine inches by three, which registers P (pass) or F (fail) on a liquid crystal screen shortly after a suspect blows into a tube for eight seconds. In borderline

cases, an A for advise—i.e., warn—appears and officers can either take further action or let the motorist off with a warning.

In the briefing room before the shift, Sgt Stewart Ord has been reminiscing about the risk-takers seemingly oblivious to any warning—"the older guys, live near the pub, who have a few drinks and still take a car"—and the occasional women who have made his life hell. "There's nothing worse than a drunken female driver. Can be really objectionable."

"Remember that last one a few weeks ago," says Mick. "She could hardly walk. Had a bust up with a boyfriend. Did a U-turn and mounted the curb. She came over all weepy and had to be consoled."

Then there was the guy, a few years ago, who was literally legless. "I was directing traffic," recalled Mick. "I beckoned the first car to come through and there was no movement. I walked over and opened the door and he fell out on to the road. There were a couple of empty vodka bottles on the floor."

These days, they are convinced that younger people, unlike some of their parents, are playing safe and heeding the warnings of the pre-Christmas campaigns.

But the two constables know that too many middle-aged drivers are not.

For years, they have endured the wrath of motorists—"Have you got nothing better to do with your time?"—as they scour North Tyneside and beyond.

Side roads are often targeted, and in one they discover a young motorist with a faulty

nearside headlight. "When did you last have a drink?"—"Two weeks" ago.

He passes the nicotest and then reveals that he had been stopped recently for a similar minor offence, and tested. He is thanked for his time.

PC Whittam, reveals that some of their successful drink-driving prosecutions are based on tip-offs.

"A customer in a pub might have seen someone drinking a lot and then phones to say he's seen him getting into a car."

But do they ever have sympathy for the offender? "Not at all," says PC Ackinlose.

PC Whittam remembers one serious accident a few years ago. "It ruined the life of a mate of mine, a PC, who was going home. A drink driver had a head-on with him and destroyed his career. He was badly injured and pensioned out of the force."

His colleague recalled another accident, just before Christmas.

"A guy had become separated from a party of friends and ran into a taxi. He was a taxi he took his car."

"It was a wicked night, with the roads almost flooded, and he lost control and hit a railway bridge. He was spun out of his car and died of head injuries."

Tests later showed he had been drinking heavily.



Tracie Andrews, fiancée of murder victim Lee Harvey, weeps at last week's press conference

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID JONES

Woman held after road rage murder remains in hospital

Stuart Miller

DETECTIVES investigating the alleged road rage murder of Lee Harvey last night refused to confirm that a 27-year-old woman arrested on Saturday in connection with the killing was his fiancée, Tracie Andrews.

West Mercia police said the woman remained in hospital under police guard. It is believed it could take a week before she is well enough to be interviewed by police.

Mr Harvey, aged 25, was stabbed more than 15 times and had his throat slashed in an isolated lane near his home in Alvechurch, Worcestershire, last Sunday.

Miss Andrews, aged 27, was the only witness. At an emotional press conference last week, she said Mr Harvey had been attacked by a fat man with "starey eyes" who was a passenger in a dark Ford Sierra the couple had overtaken in their white Escort.

The arrest came shortly after Miss Andrews was

released from hospital where she had been taken on Wednesday following a reported overdose. Police have examined the couple's home.

Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston last night said that the arrested woman had been "assumed by a police surgeon and taken to hospital. We have not and will not confirm the identity of that person."

He refused to comment on whether police were hunting anyone else in connection with the murder, or whether

the weapon had been found. No mention was made of the Ford Sierra.

He appealed to anyone who saw Mr Harvey's car or any other vehicle travelling between the Marlbrook pub in Bromsgrove, where the couple spent last Sunday evening, and the murder scene, to contact police.

Among the floral tributes at the murder scene is one from Mr Harvey's fiancée. The card reads: "God Bless. I love you. I hope you're still with me. I need you. Love Tracie, xxxxx."

Serb leader rejects way out of political crisis

Julian Borger in Belgrade

PRESIDENT Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia appeared to turn his back on a face-saving compromise with anti-government protesters at the weekend when the supreme court turned down opposition appeals against the fixing of local election results in Belgrade.

The court fazed opposition lawyers the ruling late on Saturday night rejecting the first five of 46 complaints. It has issued no formal announcement, but officials from the anti-Milosevic coalition Zajedno (Together) said they expected the remaining cases—all lodged on the same legal grounds—to be rejected.

The Belgrade election commission had forwarded the same disputed results to the supreme court last week. A ruling by the court, generally believed to be under Mr Milosevic's control, could have provided a way out of the political crisis. It began three weeks ago when an apparently decisive opposition victory in Belgrade and 14 other cities was annulled by local courts, unleashing a campaign of protest marches.

But yesterday's ruling was clear sign that the president is not ready to give up control of the capital. Tens of thousands of students and residents filled Belgrade's streets once again yesterday, to jeer the supreme court's decision and demand the ratification of the election results.

Forty opposition protesters, almost all students, have been arrested so far. Zajedno lawyers said they had been held in isolation illegally for several days.

One of the detainees, Dejan Bulatovic, aged 21, is reported to have been badly beaten by the police after being arrested on Friday and was in urgent need of medical care for head and chest injuries.

He was one of a group of students who had paraded a foam-rubber effigy of Mr Milosevic (in prison clothes and wearing a ball and chain) through the streets of Belgrade on Friday.

Mr Bulatovic's mother, Ljiljana, was allowed to visit him at the weekend. She said she found him naked on the concrete floor of a prison cell. "He had difficulty breathing. He had a broken nose. He said they put a gun barrel in his mouth and

threatened to shoot him," she said in a statement.

Zoran Djindjic, a Zajedno leader, said the court ruling would strengthen the protest movement and predicted it would spread to other towns. The protests have so far been focused in Belgrade and Nis and a handful of other industrial areas, but there have been solidarity marches in recent days in Novi Sad and Valjevo.

Mr Djindjic played down speculation of an impending wave of strikes, pointing out that the economy was functioning at 20 per cent capacity. An estimated 60 per cent of the country's 2 million workers are on indefinite paid leave.

"First we have to get workers back to work before we can have a strike," he said. But he predicted a growing number of factory workers would join the marches.

Vesna Rakic-Vodinic, a Zajedno lawyer, said the court had not explained why it had rejected the opposition appeals. "We can only conclude that the supreme court issued its judgment on the basis of orders," she said. Belgrade's election commission also queried the results with the su-

preme court, and reportedly received the same response.

Last month's opposition election victories were annulled by local courts after the ruling Socialist Party (SPS) had appealed against the results, but Mrs Rakic-Vodinic said Zajedno had not been allowed to see the SPS appeals. This, she said, was "contrary to all normal legal procedure". Nevertheless, the supreme court backed the municipal court rulings.

In 12 towns where Zajedno gains were annulled, the coalition took part in a further round of voting and won. But in Belgrade, Nis and Kraljevo, Zajedno boycotted the poll return, and took their cases to the courts. It is the fate of these three cities which is now at the heart of the protests.

Mr Milosevic has so far said nothing in public about the demand for a new election, but the state-run media has denounced the protesters as fascists.

In an apparent change of tack at the weekend designed to appeal to Serb nationalist sentiment, the official press portrayed the protesters as manipulated by the Muslim-led government in Bosnia.

Wagnerian triumph by Domingo

Review

Martin Kettle

Die Walküre

Royal Opera House

THERE is no point in pretending that anyone in the audience for this one-off Die Walküre at spectacular prices had come to see Richard Jones's controversial Ring cycle in possibly its final public showing. They had come for one reason only, to hear Placido Domingo's first London Wagner role, as the tragic Siegmund.

Like all grandee singers of a certain age, Domingo these days likes to do the roles his own way, genuflecting in only limited ways to what a mere passing director requires. His repertoire of stage gestures, though not inexpressive, is limited to the tried and tested. He does not fling himself about the stage, as, in this production, the irrepressible John Tomlinson does as Wo-

tan. And he will not allow himself to be got up to look absurd, as Jones's production requires many of the other characters to be.

And yet, having said all that, Domingo did far more than merely wander around someone else's production while singing his pre-packaged Siegmund. He submitted himself to one of the most dramatic trap-door entrances in Jones's staging. And his acting in the so-called Annunciation of Death scene with Brinnhilde in Act Two was genuinely intense and compelling.

But it was, of course, his singing which really set him apart. Domingo announced himself with the most grandiloquent piece of vocal phrasing of Siegmund's first line that I have heard in my life and then proceeded to give an account of this great role in which nearly every phrase contained something new to think about.

His German, it has to be said, is idiosyncratic and difficult to understand. But the breadth of his expressiveness more than compensates for

that. One felt sometimes that, for Domingo, Siegmund is a series of set pieces linked together by passages that require less precise and wholehearted attention. He audibly went up a whole gear at the long monologue about his childhood, and, left alone on stage, he strode down to the fightlights to deliver the most prodigiously sustained second call of "Waise!" that can have been heard at Covent Garden since the war.

His rendering of Winterstürme was almost like a concert aria but was absolutely exemplary nonetheless. Who, other than the most Beckmesserish purist, is going to complain about that? It is, after all, Wagner who wrote these scenes.

It felt odd to hear Wagner sung like this. But then it is odd, unique even. London Wagner audiences have not heard such beautiful and effortless legato singing from a tenor for years, with the arguable exception of Siegfried Jerusalem at his best. For once, though, here was a Wagner tenor who not only sang every

note exactly in time, but sang it with phrasing and line. Domingo reminded us that Wagner's tenor parts are not actually written to be backed and battled with, but to be sung, caressed, and, yes, even enjoyed. Let us hope that there will be more Wagner from him in future seasons.

While Domingo was the centre of attention, the rest of the singing was of a very high order, too, particularly Deborah Polaski's beautifully secure Brinnhilde and Karen Huffamann's exciting Sieglinde. On any other night, John Tomlinson's almost maniacal Wotan would be worth several paragraphs.

This Die Walküre contained one further tremendous achievement. In Helen Opera, Simone Young's conducting can sound too driven. But to conduct a one-off performance of Die Walküre with such sureness of touch and uncluttered eloquence is proof of a very special talent. She was, to put it simply, better even than Bernard Haitink. And that means she was very, very good indeed.



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How the Mail on Sunday broke the story and grandmother Edith Jones, her daughter Suzanne and baby Caitlin shortly after the birth



PHOTOGRAPH: ITN/MAIL ON SUNDAY

Newton bid to end war over Willetts

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

THE "cash for questions" inquiry will tonight attempt to finalise a unanimous report on the behaviour of David Willetts, the Paymaster General, during an MPs' investigation into the case of the former minister, Neil Hamilton.

The MPs on the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee investigating the affair are said to be moving towards a report that is strongly worded but falls short of demanding that Mr Willetts should be suspended from Parliament.

Tony Newton, Leader of the House, who chairs the committee, will try to get agreement from warring Tory and Labour MPs, who have spent 18 hours on the proposed wording of the report. The minister is said to be desperate to obtain unanimity to prevent a public row in the Commons over the fate of Mr Willetts, who has threatened to resign if MPs recommend he is suspended from Parliament for his bad behaviour.

MPs close to the hearing say that Mr Newton wants to avoid at all costs a minority report from either disaffected Tories or Labour members which would bring the system of parliamentary investigations into MPs' behaviour into disrepute.

The original inquiry by the Committee on Members' Interests followed the Guardian's disclosure two years ago that ministers Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith had received cash from Mohamed al Fayed, the Harrods owner, for asking parliamentary questions in a campaign orchestrated by lobbyist Ian Greer to stop

Tony Rowlands, the Lorrho boss, from regaining control of the store.

A memo by Mr Willetts, then a new member of the Government's team of whips, was written on the day the story appeared. It floated with the committee chairman, Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the possibility of "exploiting the good Tory majority" on the committee to ensure the issue was dealt with as quickly as possible.

Alternatively, it suggested, the committee should decide to defer any investigation until after the conclusion of the libel action which Mr Hamilton had launched against the Guardian.

The inquiry was duly held after Alex Carlile, Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomery, complained about the revelations in the Guardian that Mr Hamilton had accepted cash and shopping vouchers and had not declared his stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, owned by Mr al Fayed.

But the memo written by Mr Willetts only came to light recently after the Guardian subpoenaed documents from Richard Ryder, the former Chief Whip, as part of its defence against the libel case brought against the newspaper by Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer. The case collapsed in September.

The admission is likely to damage Mr Willetts' reputation, and at worst could bring his resignation from his job in the Cabinet Office.

Tory loyalists are said to favour a rap on the knuckles but Tory rebels, Labour and the Liberals want a stronger condemnation. If they cannot agree tonight, Mr Newton has told them they must sit for another three hours tomorrow night.

Mothers and baby doing well

Surrogate gran gives birth for daughter

Sarah Boseley and Elizabeth Pickering

THREE generations were doing well in a Darlington hospital yesterday — Britain's first surrogate grandmother, Edith Jones, her daughter, Suzanne, and their baby, Caitlin. But while Mrs Jones's act of generosity in giving birth to her daughter's child was universally applauded, questions were raised about the future.

Mrs Jones, 51, gave birth by caesarean section to Caitlin, who weighed 5lb 3oz, last Thursday after 36 weeks of pregnancy. Suzanne was unable to carry a child because she has no womb, but produced eggs which were fertilised, through IVF, with the sperm of her husband, Chris Langston, and then implanted in her mother's womb.

Gillian Lockwood, clinical research fellow in fertility at the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford, saw advantages in the child's grandmother having been the surrogate. "You only have to go back a generation and you've got mothers and grandmothers living together and supporting each other. "I would have thought it was, dare I say, back to basics. It allows the grandmother a fuller role."

She added: "This is a solution to a tragic and rare medical problem which makes everybody happy and nobody unhappy."

Mrs Jones has said she feels "just like an ordinary grandma", but admitted in an interview with the Mail on Sunday, which paid for rights to the story: "Even with a normal grandchild, it is a struggle not to interfere. I am going to have to stand back and not keep reminding her of what I have done for her."

Deborah Steiner, a psychoanalyst and child psychiatrist at the Tavistock Clinic and author of books on child development, said: "There is bound to be some extra feeling on behalf of the grandmother which might exacerbate any potential rivalry between mother and daughter. If she has actually carried the child, she has more of a vested interest."

"I think women usually turn to their mothers at a time like this and that's natural. But there is always the possibility that the father feels excluded. The mother and daughter may have got even closer in this situation



Kim Cotton, Britain's first surrogate mother, who called the case "a wholesome example of motherly love"

PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

and made him feel even more left out." Among those who foresaw problems ahead was Dame Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham Edgbaston, who said: "My own feeling is that it's very strange for any child to be saddled with a mother who is its grandmother. "She bore it. I would have thought if you bear a child, you are the child's mother. There might well be identity crises in the future."

Steve Dickinson, a spokesman for the leading surrogate organisation in this country, Cots (Childlessness Overcome Through Surrogacy) — founded by Kim Cotton, Britain's first surrogate mother — called the case "a wholesome example of motherly love... an absolutely wonderful thing".

But, added Mr Dickinson realistically: "I'm not sure it could work for everybody. I think there could be difficulties involved, but it depends on the way they approach it."

Cots had helped a woman become a surrogate mother for her sister's baby, which had been a happy and successful arrangement, he said. But with all family involvements there could be complications because of the strength of feeling between the adults. "Where there are siblings, there are love/hate relationships and the love tends to be very, very strong," he said.

The family's treatment cost £3,500 at the private Park Hospital in Nottingham. John Webster, medical director of fertility, said he felt the surrogacy arrangement was a good one. "One of the arguments in favour of using her mum is that a lot of problems can arise with surrogacy, one of them being that the surrogate may not give the baby up. We felt this would not happen," he said.

He explained how Mrs Jones, five years into the menopause, was prepared for pregnancy. "We mimicked what happens in a natural pregnancy by gradually increasing the amount of oestrogen we gave. We can measure the thickness of the lining of the uterus. Then we introduced progesterone," he said.

"It's just hormone replacement therapy. It can only be beneficial and she felt well through the pregnancy."

With two of Suzanne's fertilised eggs implanted into Mrs Jones's womb, there was the risk that both embryos would develop, said Mr Webster. "I spent a lot of time talking to the family about it. They were prepared to accept that. They were counselled and a psychological profile was taken. The ethics committee was involved and they felt happy with the arrangement."

Womb service

1985: Kim Cotton becomes Britain's first surrogate mother. She is paid £5,500 by an American couple, leading to a public outcry. She gives birth after one of her own eggs is inseminated artificially. Ms Cotton is also paid £15,000 by a newspaper for her story.

1985: The Surrogacy Act makes it illegal to profit from surrogate agreements, though "reasonable expenses" may be paid. In June 1991 Ms Cotton gives birth to twins on behalf of a friend but is not paid.

1987: Pat Anthony, 48, from South Africa, becomes the world's first surrogate grandmother after she was implanted with eggs from her daughter, Karen. She bore triplets.

1990: Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act requires infertility centres to be licensed and introduces fast-track procedures for legal adoption of surrogate babies.

1996: An unnamed couple are granted full parental rights for their surrogate child. The landmark ruling means the couple bypass complex and costly adoption procedures.

1996: British Medical Association changes policy and advises doctors to discuss surrogacy with couples where appropriate. It defines "reasonable expenses" as £7,000 to £10,000.

1996: First NHS-funded surrogate birth is planned at King's College Hospital, London.

Oldest life stories collected for 2000

Dan Galsister
Arts Correspondent

A RECORD of national eating habits and the life stories of Britain's 1,000 oldest people will be among the 72 projects in the Millennium celebrations.

Organiser Jeremy Sale said the aim was to create a snapshot of everyone's thoughts and minds. "Every person in the UK should contribute. The aim is to make them stakeholders in the Millennium celebrations."

Information for the projects will be gathered by a millennium roadshow featuring three giant spheres, to be called Millennium Icons, which will visit 54 cities over two years in a £40 million exercise starting on January 1, 1998.

The aim of the Millennium roadshow is to involve as many people as possible in the celebrations, say the organisers, and to defuse the criticism that they are too London-based.

Mr Sale said the Nation's Stomach would "create a record and understanding of dishes and specialities, and possibly recover ones that have been lost."

Local groups will be invited to submit recipes that most characterise their region. The best will be recorded in a millennium cookery book.

Story of A Lifetime is an attempt to compile an oral history of the nation. The 1,000 oldest people in the country will be asked to give recollections of their lifetimes. These will be recorded on an electronic archive, accessible at the Greenwich celebration starting on January 1, 2000.

The spheres, which will double as advertisements and information centres will stop

in each city for between three and four weeks for visits by schools and groups as well as individuals.

For the Festival of Britain in 1951, an aircraft carrier containing elements of the exhibition docked at ports around the country.

For the Nation's Stomach, women's institutes, the Guild of Food Writers and the media will be invited to submit suggestions. For the oral history project it is hoped that the Arts Council, Day Care Centres, Darby and Joan clubs and schools will take part. Schools will be helped to devise projects to make recordings of the memories of people over retirement age.

The Millennium Commission has already pledged £20 million out of the £350 million budget, although the final figure could be as high as £800 million.

With corporate sector sponsors still dragging their heels, Millennium Central, the operating group for the celebrations, is still not assured of raising the £150 million needed in partnership funding.

The Millennium Commission has already pledged £20 million out of the £350 million budget, although the final figure could be as high as £800 million.

The 72 projects are in groups of six for each of the 12 themes around which the Millennium celebrations are being organised. These are: communications and information, business and enterprise, sport, youth and education, energy and environment, entertainment, arts, health, living in the fourth age, travel and leisure, food and drink, and science, technology and transport.

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United friendly PERSON TO PERSON

Gary Young looks at the difficulties in classifying minority groups and hears the views of two people with parents of different races

Row greets plan for new ethnic labels in census

'Mixed-race' and 'black British' categories added for test run

PLANS to include ethnic categories in the next census have fuelled an argument among politicians, academics and equal opportunities advisers about the best means of classifying minority groups.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys is to introduce a "mixed-race" and a "black British" category on pilot census forms to be distributed next June.

An Office of National Statistics spokesman said: "After consulting various groups we decided to float the idea of these new categories to see how people would respond. We will assess the answers and see where we go from there."

The 1991 census, the first to ask questions about ethnicity, had nine categories: white, black Caribbean, black African, black other, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese and any other ethnic group.

"None of the categories that we have are adequate," said Chris Myant of the Commission for Racial Equality, which supports the change. "But there are a significant number of black people who do not like calling themselves black Caribbean because they were born here and have grown up here, and there are people of mixed-race who feel themselves forced to sign 'other' because they could not see themselves on the form."

Bernie Grant, Labour MP for Tottenham, objects to both new categories: "Black British doesn't mean anything in a census."

"All sorts of people define themselves as that, including Asians, Africans and Caribbeans. Even some of the Irish say they are black."

A mixed-race category would give the illusion that such people make up a self-sufficient racial or ethnic group, he said. "Society sees

mixed-race people as black, and they are treated as black. They are never accepted as white, so they have no choice.

"Both my children are mixed race. They see themselves as black and have never had a problem with it."

But with one in three black men living with or married to a white woman — according to a report published by the Office of National Statistics last summer — the issue of making space for a mixed-race identity will become increasingly pressing. And as immigration controls tighten and the number of second and third generation black Britons increases, references to the Caribbean, Asian and African countries of their forebears may sound increasingly oblique.

Tariq Modood of the Policy Studies Institute, a think tank on race, said: "The introduction of both categories ought to be encouraged. Many people do not want to negate part of their cultural heritage by saying they are black Caribbean when their mother is actually white and British."

Plans to introduce a "multi-racial" category on the US census have been piloted, sparking a row between civil rights groups, government officials and mixed-race activists which led to a national demonstration in Washington this year by campaigners who demand such a category.

The pilots showed that most people who ticked mixed-race had previously ticked "other". But one problem was that at least a quarter were actually white but the product of, say, Italian and French parents. "The problem is, nobody knows what it means," said a US researcher.

David Owen, a research fellow at Warwick University's Centre for Ethnic Studies, believes similar issues could arise here. "It would be nice to include all people in these categories, but there are lots of problems," he said.

"With both new questions people will say: Why do you want to know? Why is it relevant? What does it mean? Then comes the question of how many generations back are you prepared to go."



Sebastian Naidoo, at his home yesterday, objects to being 'put in a box' by racial classifications. PHOTOGRAPH FRANK GARDIN

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Case 1

SEBASTIAN Naidoo's father is a South African-born Indian and his mother is white and British. When presented with racial classifications in the past he has ticked either "Indian" or "Other", but once he scrawled "human" over the whole lot. "I wanted to make fun of their questions and show them how arbitrary their racial categories were," he said.

"I didn't see why I should make it easy for them to put me in a box like that." While he recognises that ethnic monitoring has its uses, he is concerned that the information collected can be used to pigeon-hole people and further entrench racial divisions.

But if presented with the options of "Asian British" and "Mixed-race", as well as the ethnic minority categories on the last census, Mr Naidoo says he would put his

cross next to "Mixed-race", albeit with serious reservations.

"It depends how it would be used," he said. "I would hope that a mixed-race category would help to further acknowledge the growing human diversity in this country."

"But I would fear that it would just be an attempt to find a place for those people who do not already fit into the racial puzzle."

"In a society where racial lines are very clearly drawn, if you are multi-racial you do end up in this murky grey area which is rarely catered for on official forms."

Mr Naidoo, aged 26, a student at the City University in London, said one category he would not mark was "Asian British".

"I'm not sure what they are trying to get at here, and I don't know how they could use this information."

"This category, like some of the others, seems to confuse race, ethnicity, culture and nationality."

Case 2

CHRISS James's mother is Spanish and her father is from Grenada in the Caribbean. When asked to fill in ethnic monitoring forms in the past she has usually ticked "Black other".

"It depends on the choices available," she said. "It just seems more appropriate. I wasn't raised by my father, so I don't feel the Caribbean had much impact on my identity."

If the two new categories were on the next census form, she said she would still tick "Black other".

"I don't think there is enough of a mixed-race community or a mixed-race identity for that category to be very meaningful. It's very important that you have access to the kind of cultural resources that will help you to cope with your

life in Britain, and I don't know where mixed-race people would get that from on their own."

Ms James, aged 23, a legal clerk, said she would not tick "Black British" because of the associations that go with defining oneself as British. "I wouldn't want to attach myself to something like British when so much of the society still rejects black people."

She is married to a white man and is expecting a baby in the new year — and she is glad the issue is being aired. "It is becoming increasingly complex as more and more mixing goes on," she said.

"I don't think [choosing 'Black British'] would be a good idea now, but I would hate to deny the choice to future generations. By the time my child is my age things could be very different."

Yard to question diplomats over the arms-to Iraq affair

Richard Norton-Taylor

THREE British diplomats, including an ambassador, have been summoned home to be questioned by Scotland Yard over claims they perverted the course of justice in the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Graham Boyce, British Ambassador to Kuwait, Patrick Nixon, High Commissioner in Zambia, and Carsten Pigott, deputy head of the British Embassy in Addis Ababa, were questioned about their role in the conviction in 1985 of arms dealers who tried to sell 200 Sterling sub-machine guns to Iraq via Jordan.

The Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday it had received a police report on the three diplomats.

The conduct of the diplomats — then based in the Foreign Office in London — was severely criticised by the Court of Appeal, which quashed the conviction of the arms dealers, Reginald Dunk and Alexander Schlesinger, in July 1984 in the light of evi-

dence obtained by the Scott inquiry.

It emerged that the diplomats approached staff at the Iraqi and Jordanian embassies in London to persuade them not to give evidence on behalf of the defence.

In an unprecedented court indictment of Whitehall officials, Lord Taylor, then Lord Chief Justice, said: "The machinations in this case to prevent witnesses for the defence being available... constituted such an interference with the justice process as to amount to an abuse of it."

The Foreign Office said yesterday it was awaiting the completion of the investigation. The diplomats had not been suspended and the Foreign Office had "full confidence" in them.

Disciplinary action would be considered only in light of the final CPS report.

The Home Office has agreed in principle to compensate Mr Dunk and Mr Schlesinger. They were fined £23,000 after pleading guilty at their Old Bailey trial in 1985.

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'Blowtorch' rail risk may cost millions to eliminate Eurotunnel suffers wagons setback

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

EUROTUNNEL is resigned to the prospect of having to scrap or greatly modify its last-ice-sided lorry wagons as a result of last month's fire in the Channel Tunnel.

Sources in the industry say the inquiry into the cause of the fire is convinced that the wagons, which have been shown to produce a blowtorch effect in the tunnel, add considerably to the fire hazard.

Changing the wagons would cost millions of pounds and put off return to a normal service until well into next year. Eurotunnel was carrying up to 13,000 lorries a week until the fire.

Tomorrow its car shuttle between Calais and Dover restarts with two trains an hour. People who have already booked tickets will have priority.

Meanwhile, the safety au-

thority has insisted on extra safeguards for Eurostar passenger trains while the tunnel is repaired. At either end, crews are on 24-hour standby in half a train, ready to move and evacuate passengers.

The interruption to Eurostar, the brief interruption to freight services, and now the indefinite suspension of lorry-carrying services will cost Eurotunnel dearly, although its insurance covers most of its losses. Its revenue from the tunnel has been £45 million a month.

At least half the damaged freight train will have to be replaced, at a cost of £10 million, and Eurotunnel estimates that insurance payouts for the burnt-out lorries will total £4.5 million.

The company has altered equipment used by French security staff to give them immediate access to the control centre if they need to raise an alarm. The staff, employed by the state, were unable to com-

municate direct when they noticed smoke coming from a freight wagon.

Staff on the British side are employed by the company and already had direct contact with control.

Eurotunnel is looking to improve its internal communications generally as one of the lessons learnt from the fire. It accepts that some key staff might need a better knowledge of English or French in the event of a crisis.

French police are still investigating whether arson caused the fire. Eurotunnel said reports of fireworks being let off in the terminal area were received before the alarm was raised.

Other theories are that a fault in a lorry caused it, or a *primum stove*.

The lorries had waited in rain for at least two hours before they could board the train, due to a wildcat strike which also interrupted passenger services.



Picture this... Peri Kemal-Orek with the Frank Auerbach painting PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Sharp buyer gets answer on a postcard

Dan Glaister on a winner in an art sale where everything had its price: £30

PERI KEMAL-OREK was bewildered by all the attention. "I wasn't expecting any of this," said the 27-year-old painter.

Ms Kemal-Orek, surrounded by photographers and television crews, had just collected the unsigned painting she bought on Tuesday at the Royal College of Art's Absolut Secret show. Ms Kemal-Orek had guessed well, choosing from among 1,600 paintings all priced at £30, a painting by Frank Auerbach. It is probably worth £10,000.

The paintings, all on postcards, were by celebrities and students as well as well-known artists.

The most recent Auerbach painting to sell at auction fetched £22,000 in New York in November. An oil painting by the artist sold for £29,900 at Sotheby's in London this March.

Ms Kemal-Orek, an art student who contributed a picture to the show, had spotted the lone Auerbach after just five minutes in the gallery.

"His work is very distinctive, but I've been worried all week because there are other artists putting copies in for the show," she said. The winner of the art lottery did have a head start,

however. Last year a friend of hers bought an Auerbach postcard at the same show. That was later valued at £10,000.

"I don't know if this one will be valued as high as that," she said. "I don't think it's as good as last year's." The first thing she was going to do as the proud owner of an Auerbach original was to make sure she had house insurance, she said. She hoped to enjoy the picture rather than sell it.

Michael Morris had picked up a postcard by the Turner Prize nominee Simon Patterson. "I can't believe it, it's fantastic," he said, showing off his acquisition to a group of friends. Mr Morris bought his postcard on the second day of the show.

"I spent half an hour looking round on Wednesday," he said. "I recognised it as a Simon Patterson because of the typeface. He's used it before." Mr Morris, who tried unsuccessfully to buy Patterson's signature work The Great Bear, a renamed London Underground map, said that his purchase was not an investment. "It's pleasure, definitely pleasure."

All the paintings were sold, raising £48,000 for the Royal College of Art Fine Art Student Fund, which provides grants and hardship funds. The artists included John Bellany, Peter Blake, Marc Quinn, Paula Rego, Peter Doig, Sir Hugh Casson, David Bowie and Vic Reeves.

Welfare groups back calls for children's minister

David Erskine
and Sue Quinn

THE next government should set up special structures for children's affairs to bring Britain in line with other countries, an inquiry report says today.

There should be a children's policy unit in Whitehall, a minister with sole responsibility for children and an inter-departmental group on children to ensure a co-ordinated approach across government, according to the report.

In addition, there should be a select committee on children in Parliament and a children's rights commissioner to act as an independent, statutory watchdog.

The recommendations have emerged from an investigation into effective government structures for children,

commissioned by the Gulbenkian Foundation, a charitable trust.

Child welfare groups are strongly supporting the proposals, including the children's charity, Barnardo's, which yesterday released new research showing the lives of many young people in care are severely disrupted by frequent changes in accommodation and education.

The research, involving seven of the charity's projects in Scotland, showed that on average, young people were moved between children's homes and foster families 3.7 times before reaching a Barnardo's project; in the worst case, one primary school aged child had moved 40 times.

John Rea Price, director of the National Children's Bureau, said: "It is surely time for central government to practice what it preaches and give leadership, to a co-

ordinated strategy for children across Whitehall."

Jim Harding, chief executive of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, said: "If we are to protect children effectively, all developments in legislation and policy must be child-focused."

"They need day-to-day co-ordination of the sort that the office of a minister for children could and should provide."

The inquiry report says existing government structures are failing the 13 million under 18s and compare poorly with arrangements in other countries such as Ireland, Denmark and South Africa.

Effective Government Structures for Children; Turnaround Publishers Services, 3 Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Road, London N22 6TZ; £10.95 plus £2 p&p

Home brew firm attacked for alcopop kit

Stuart Miller

ANORWICH home brew manufacturer yesterday drew widespread condemnation for launching a do-it-yourself alcopop kit which can legally be sold to under-age drinkers.

A loophole in the law applying to all home-brew kits means Splooch, marketed by Continental Wine Experts as an "alcoholic booster" to be added to soft drinks, can be

bought by under-18s because it is not alcoholic at the time it is sold.

The £4.99 kit, which carries a cartoon logo on the front showing two drunken eyes, takes 10 days to turn 18 standard 330ml bottles of soft-drink into 27 bottles with a strength of 5 per cent alcohol by volume. It also includes instructions on boosting wines and beers so they become as strong as 15 per cent.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, said: "This product should be withdrawn without delay. It has been marketed in the knowledge that teenagers can legally purchase it."

Richard Dambly, the manufacturer's technical director, denied it was aimed at teenagers. "We will take on board all the comments that have been made although we are unlikely to withdraw it. It is meant to be the home-brew equivalent of alcopops but we are not targeting under-age drinkers."

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Hong Kong's rigged race nears the finish

A handshake in Beijing has turned an 'election' into an empty ritual, writes **Andrew Higgins**

HOTEL banquet rooms made a fortune. Pollsters hit new dirt. The process of selecting a post-colonial governor to take over from Chris Patten in 204 days has been elaborate, exuberant, expensive — and almost entirely empty. The ritual looks set to reach a scripted finale on Wednesday, when a 400-member selection committee gathers to "elect" the Shanghai-born shipping magnate Tung Chee-woo as the first chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

After weeks of frenetic glad-handing in housing estates, schools and temples, it is clear that the only handshake that really mattered took place 11 months ago in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, when China's president, Jiang Zemin, held out his hand to Mr Tung — and a phalanx of photographers recorded the endorsement.

"This is not a race but a farce... China is here already. It is coming in thick and fast," said Emily Lau, a legislator who campaigned fruitlessly for a popular poll.

A Hong Kong convention centre is being refurbished for Wednesday to replicate the decor of the Great Hall in Beijing. Among those stage-managing the production is Shiu Sin-por, the head of a pro-China think-tank who spent last week denying reports that he had fallen asleep on the podium while interviewing prospective chief executives.

Suspicion that the contest is rigged, said Mr Shiu, should not spoil the fun, especially since Britain named 28

colonial governors without consulting anyone. "People still bet big money at Happy Valley [race course] even if they think the race is fixed, because no one is ever certain who will win. Of course, in the end there is only one sure winner: the Jockey Club."

China's made sure it is in much the same position: it picked the preparatory committee which picked the select-



Tung: China's choice to succeed the governor

"They actually thought they had a chance. I feel sorry for them. They are so stupid."

Mr Tung, a graduate of Liverpool University, has denied any significance in his handshake with President Jiang. "I think it was really just a handshake. It was just the way the seats were organised and because I was sitting way out at the corner he just came over to shake my hand."

But with less than seven months before Britain pulls out, many in Hong Kong have mastered the mainland's coded political vernacular.

"The handshake was a clear signal... The implication was obvious," said Frederick Fung, a Hong Kong politician who witnessed the gesture. "Chinese officials have never told us who to vote for, but there are only 400 people voting and they understand what they should do."

Mr Fung knows the perils of not being on the line. He collided with political enemies earlier this year, casting the sole dissenting voice in the preparatory committee against plans to disband the elected legislative council after the handover. He was denounced by a senior Chinese official.

Yet he was still given a seat on the selection committee, a gesture he sees as a sign that Beijing can sometimes tolerate different shades of opinion. He also believes China has done more than Britain. "When the Queen appointed the governor, people in Hong Kong had never even heard of him. He didn't even have a name in Chinese," he said.

Ms Lau is unimpressed. "Why use the name of a colony to measure the Special Administrative Region? This denigrates the future. It is also an admission that Hong Kong is going to be another colony... We want to use some higher benchmarks."

Arrest of Tamil Nadu's former chief minister on corruption charges sparks violence

5,000 protesters held

Suzanne Goldenberg in New Delhi

THOUSANDS of people were detained by Indian police yesterday when the spiritual children of J. Jayalalitha, the former chief minister of southern Tamil Nadu known popularly as *Amma* or mother, went on a statewide tantrum to protest against her imprisonment on corruption charges.

Ms Jayalalitha, a former film star whose puffy visage once stared down on her subjects from thousands of billboards in a bizarre personality cult, was arrested during her morning prayers on Saturday on charges of allowing bureaucrats to siphon off \$6 million rupees (£1.67 million) which was meant to be spent installing 45,000 colour television sets in villages in the south Indian state.

She bedded down on the floor of her cell with the regulation two sheets and a pillow during her first night in Madras central jail on Saturday, and sipped on rice gruel.

However, prison authorities, worried by the violent protests, upgraded Ms Jayalalitha yesterday to more luxurious accommodation, installing her to a mattress, hot



Ms Jayalalitha steps from a police van after her arrest on corruption charges

water, newspapers, solid food and mineral water.

She has a bail hearing today, although previous efforts to avoid prison by seeking advance bail have failed. She faces charges in six other cases ranging from alleged corruption to tax evasion and misuse of foreign exchange.

Although voters threw out Ms Jayalalitha's All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) party in elections last May, she still

rules some hearts in Tamil Nadu. A fanatical supporter died in hospital yesterday after setting himself alight, and loyalists set fire to three buses and attacked 75 others in her northern stronghold of Arcot district. More than 5,000 people were detained across the state.

Ms Jayalalitha's regime began to crumble last year after she lavished millions of rupees on the wedding of her foster son, a relative of her close companion, Sasikala Narayan, who has spent the last six months in the same jail wing on charges of violating foreign exchange controls. Even the most conservative estimates put the cost of the wedding at \$2 million, an unimaginable extravagance for a chief minister who claimed to draw a token monthly salary of one rupee.

Since her electoral humiliation, more than half of Ms Jayalalitha's cabinet ministers have been charged with corruption and other crimes. After suffering her authoritarian rule in silence for five years, some members of her AIADMK party have broken away to form a rebel wing.

She told reporters at the weekend that the charges against her were fabricated, adding: "This is nothing but political victimisation."

Police, assisted by apprais-

ers sent to evaluate Ms Jayalalitha's treasure trove of jewellery, yesterday searched her mansion in Madras, and the other properties she accumulated during her five-year reign.

Ms Jayalalitha is accused of over-ruling finance officials who said the 14,500 rupee price tag on each television set was artificially inflated, and police say they have statements on kickbacks from several television companies. The televisions were meant for educational purposes.

But despite her present travails, she remains in August company. The former Indian communications minister, Sukh Ram, has spent time in jail on corruption charges, and the former prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, is also on trial for corruption.

Doctors treating Mother Teresa in Calcutta said yesterday that she had suffered a setback in her recovery from pneumonia and they were concerned about her unstable condition.

They said she was suffering from bronchial pneumonia which had not yet responded to antibiotics or respiratory treatment. The 86-year-old nun underwent surgery on November 29 to clear two blocked coronary arteries. She will stay at least another week in hospital.

Hard job selling Israel to Arabs

The high hopes of a peace premium are withering on the vine, **Kathy Evans** in Doha, Qatar, writes

HOUSE 29 looks just like any other in the sprawling complex of luxury villas in Doha's most expensive suburb, West Bay. Apart from the two tubby Qatari policemen sitting outside with machine guns, that is.

The anonymous building is the headquarters of Qatar's smallest and newest diplomatic community in the peninsula. The presence of the three diplomats, two wives and two children dates from the better days of the peace process, before Binayamin Netanyahu became Israel's prime minister and Arabs and Israelis were not only going to make peace together, but business as well.

The handshake between the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and Israel's then prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, launched the Israelis into the most coveted market in the Middle East: the oil-rich states of the Gulf.

It was left to two of the region's smallest states, Qatar and Oman, to set the pace. Both welcomed visits by Israeli officials, received the former prime minister, Shimon Peres, and promised to open offices in Tel Aviv. For the purposes of trade, not politics, naturally.

It was in those heady days that Shmuel Ravel came to Doha. On May 31, Mr Netanyahu came to power.

Since then, hopes of big business deals in the Gulf have faded along with the peace process. Last week, the impasse over Israel's reluctance to redeploy its troops in Hebron led Qatar's emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, to freeze relations.

Despite this, Mr Ravel, the 33-year-old diplomat who

heads Israel's Doha office, remains a professional optimist.

"It's not like you think," he says. "I'm not the loneliest man in Qatar. I have lots of Qatari friends and business people still want to talk to us."

Mr Ravel says his social calendar is full and not just with invitations from other foreign diplomats, but from Qataris and other Arabs as well. But he cannot disclose their names.

"At the moment we are in the midst of celebrating the Hanukkah festival, and we had a party for Jewish expatriates, but a lot of other people came along too," he says. "We don't judge our friends according to religion. We take them as they are."

As for business, Mr Ravel says it is picking up slowly, although the biggest project of all — to link the emirate with Israel and Europe by a pipeline from Qatar's giant gas fields — appears to have ground to a halt. "The experts are still studying it," Mr Ravel says ruefully.

He says trade in other areas is under way, and Israeli firms are already arriving in Qatar. But he cannot reveal the exact volume.

"It's small, but you would expect that wouldn't you?"

Two weeks ago businessmen from eight Israeli security companies attended an exhibition in Doha. The Israeli display attracted many Qataris, most curious to meet their first Israelis, says Mr Ravel.

"They are warm, hospitable people, much more dynamic and less inhibited than I thought they would be."

However, Qataris say in private that, apart from officials, the Israelis are still shunned by those who count. One local trader said: "No one wanted to be the first businessman in Doha to rent them office accommodation."

At Mr Ravel says, the road to peace, and commerce, is not easy. "At least we are still on the same road going in the same direction."

Sex assault case reveals dangers of online dating

Mark Tran in New York

THE case of a 20-year-old woman student who was allegedly sexually assaulted by a Columbia University graduate student after they met on the Internet has become the latest cautionary tale about the perils of online dating.

For weeks, Oliver Jovanovic, aged 30, a molecular biology student, chatted online with his alleged victim, a philosophy student, about their favourite books, films and interests.

About two weeks ago, they met for dinner, after which she accepted his invitation to watch videos at his flat. She was subjected to a 20-hour ordeal, according to investigators, who charged Mr Jovanovic with aggravated sexual abuse last Thursday.

He is being held on Rikers Island while his family tries to raise his \$350,000 (\$250,000) bail.

Mr Jovanovic allegedly tied up the woman with strips of cloth, gagged her mouth with tape, sexually assaulted her, showed her pictures of corpses and threatened to cut her body into pieces, like the serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer who dismembered his victims, before releasing her.

The case has further highlighted the risks of meeting strangers in cyberspace "chat rooms", the 1990s version of singles' bars.

Police in Fresno, California, have arrested a man on charges of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl in Connecticut whom he met online. Detectives say the man travelled to Connecticut last January, arranged to meet the girl and then assaulted her.

In the most notorious case, a computer analyst apparently arranged her own strangling through the Internet. Investigators who later read her e-mail say she had tried to hire someone to torture her to death.

A grand jury is scheduled to meet today to decide whether to indict the man, who claims he accidentally strangled her during sex.

Mr Jovanovic's parents have vigorously protested their son's innocence. Sabina Jovanovic, a violinist with the New York City Ballet, said: "He is a wonderful person and he has our full support." His father, Svetozar, is a chess coach at the elite Dalton school in New York.

Oliver Jovanovic, who was to defend his doctoral dissertation later this month, was described by classmates and professors as a brilliant student, who had developed a pioneering computer programme to analyse complex proteins. After completing his PhD, he had planned to start a software company with his brother to market his innovative programmes.



Residents of Cuerto Pueblo, a village in northern Guatemala, carry coffins containing the remains of 800 people massacred by the country's army in 1982 during its brutal counter-insurgency campaign. The burned and mutilated remains were found in mass graves in the village last year. Relatives have asked that a peace deal to be signed later this month does not include an amnesty for the soldiers responsible

Ecuador's chief lunatic takes over the asylum

The new president delights in his nickname and shows no sign of curbing his populist antics — but his arbitrary decisions are making him enemies, writes **Phil Gunson** in Quito

THE middle and upper classes of this chilly Andean capital are not sure whether to laugh or cry over the antics of their recently inaugurated president.

The election of Abdalá Bucaram, a flamboyant populist from the steamy port-city of Guayaquil, has been greeted here as if the madman had taken over the asylum.

"This country suffers from a deficit of common sense," laments an Ecuadorian diplomat.

Evelyn, who works for a car rental company, adds: "It makes me ashamed for my country to think that people abroad will be reading about this."

Bad enough, say the embarrassed *quitosinos*, were Mr Bucaram's pre-election activities: singing rock songs, leaping out of helicopters, describing his opponent as a drug-financed anti-Christ and using vulgar, unidiomatic language on the least appropriate occasions.

But any idea that the dominance of the presidential sash might prompt him to tone down the language — or the lunacy — has long since been dismissed as hopelessly optimistic.

During a period which included seven postponements of his plan of govern-

ment, the president kept the cabinet waiting while he played football, sang and danced at the "Miss Banana 1996" beauty contest, had his moustache shaved off for charity and welcomed Ecuador-born Lorena Bobbitt as a national heroine.

More seriously, he has stacked the cabinet with his family, close friends and campaign contributors and presides over a government riven with internal disputes and already facing a variety of challenges over ethical issues.

"One of the problems, is that his word means absolutely nothing," says a former presidential chief of staff, Gonzalo Ortiz, of the magazine *Gestión*.

"The other is the arbitrary nature of his decisions."

The person least worried by all of this seems to be Mr Bucaram, who delights in his nickname of *El Loco* — the madman — and says he no longer needs to seek popularity "because I am already the president."

This is just as well, since polls indicate that his ratings have plummeted from the upper-50s to the mid-30s since his inauguration.

One reason could well be his somersaults over economic policy. A self-styled "friend of the poor" and a fierce opponent of the free market, Mr Bucaram rallied against "the oligarchy" during his campaign, but on being elected said he

saw no need for radical change.

He then proceeded to appoint the country's richest men as advisers and recruit Argentina's former economy minister, Domingo Cavallo — the chief guru of his opponent, Jaime Nebot — to redesign the economy.

Announcing the plan on television and radio, President Bucaram described it as nothing less than a political and economic revolution, and himself as the only man who could save the country.

At its heart is a fixed exchange rate of 4 sucres to the dollar, which opponents say may be fine in theory but requires discipline, credibility and technical skills of which the Bucaram government has so far shown no evidence.

Mixed in was a ragbag of social measures reflecting the president's obsession with everything from alcohol abuse to animal rights.

"He's a character straight from the pen of Garcia Marquez," says Freddy Echea, who was an independent presidential candidate won a fifth of the votes in the first round.

"He thinks he's predestined, and he creates things and undoes them from one day to the next."

The *quitosinos* are particularly upset with the new president because he detests the capital city, which he describes as too cold.

He shuns the presidential palace, preferring to stay in a hotel, and at a moment's notice he is liable to take the entire cabinet off to the provinces.

There are already those who believe Mr Bucaram will not make it to the end of his term. He has spent two lengthy periods in exile in Panama as a result of his activities while mayor of Guayaquil — and seems once again to be making enemies.

Arafat's demands 'would mean reopening peace deal'

AP in Jerusalem

AN Israeli official accused the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, yesterday of making demands that would reopen almost every clause agreed upon in negotiations over security arrangements in the West Bank town of Hebron.

But Mr Arafat's office blamed the government of the prime minister, Binayamin Netanyahu, for holding up a Hebron deal by trying to change the agreement signed

by the previous government. Meanwhile, Israel partially reopened a street in Hebron that has been closed to Palestinian traffic for two years. Opening the street is a key Palestinian demand.

David Bar-Ulan, an aide to Mr Netanyahu, said Mr Arafat sent a message which would reopen all previous agreements. The Palestinians are also demanding a timetable for an Israeli withdrawal from rural areas in the West Bank promised in the interim agreement signed by the previous government.

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"If art schools concentrated on teaching students technical skills instead of marketing skills, these artists could make their own work."
David Dawson and Kathleen Kelly of KD Digital

Arts G2 page 12

صوتنا من الامل

Tensions rise on Greek roads to nowhere

Helena Smith speaks to British lorry drivers trapped in the port of Patras and fearing for their livelihoods as the farmers' blockade spreads

HELENA Pinder loves Greece but, after another day stuck inside the cabin of his truck, he is just one of many British lorry drivers who have seen enough of it for the time being.

In the 11 days since furious farmers began protesting against the Athens government's austere budget by setting up a crippling rail and road blockade, hundreds of international lorries have been trapped in the port of Patras. The wait is beginning to tell.

"It's just been nightmarish," said Mr Pinder, from Newcastle. "A blockade like this is going to make a lot of us bankrupt. As an owner-driver I stand to lose around £6,000 for this trip alone. It's been, well, bloody disastrous."

Since arriving in Greece with a load of cables bound for Kalamata, Mr Pinder has spent most of his time fretting about thieves and whether he will have enough money for food.

"When you're on a job you aren't leave your trailer for fear it will be broken into," he said.

As European Union countries strive to reach targets for monetary union, truckers like Mr Pinder and his friend, Rhys Neal, have been stopped in their

tracks by those denouncing the inequities of the Maastricht treaty.

"In 30 years of driving I've never seen industrial unrest throughout Europe before," said Mr Neal, who had been en route to Athens with a cargo of electrical goods from his hometown of Swindon.

"I'm a staunch advocate of European monetary union but in places like Greece, where prices have tripled in the past two years, it's clear people are really suffering. Personally, I don't blame the farmers. From what I understand they're going bankrupt."

With no signs of the

blockade ending, not all truckers are as sympathetic. As the revolt intensified over the weekend following the farmers' decision to build more barricades and extend the protest to Crete, foreign truckers began furiously erecting counter-blockades to try to stop them moving more tractors on to motorways. Police said tensions had reached fever pitch in many parts of the country, with growing numbers trying to run the blockade.

"I know of one Englishman who got badly beaten up with baseball bats when he tried to get past the bar-

ricade outside Patras," said Mr Pinder. "Up north where people are trapped around the borders there have been a lot of cases of people getting broken noses and black eyes."

Clearly alarmed by the scale of the uprising, the prime minister, Costas Simitis, has hastily dispatched senior politicians to the countryside in a bid to defuse the crisis.

Yesterday Mr Simitis, who is determined to apply his stringent fiscal policies if Greece is to keep pace with its richer European partners, was quoted as saying he would rather his government fell than give

in to the farmers' demands. The farmers want cheaper fuel, more subsidies and higher produce prices.

With much of the public sector also striking over the budget later this week, the socialists fear that bowing to the farmers would prompt a wave of similar requests.

"Everyone who voted for this government in September knew what its policies were," Mr Simitis said. "Greece's future lies with European monetary union and I am not prepared to derail the country's course towards it."

But Mr Simitis' tough stance appears only to have

hardened the farmers' resolve. Despite growing shortages of food, medicine and raw materials, the farmers have said they will tighten the noose around Athens by closing the Corinthian canal today. The bridge connects the capital with fertile Peloponnese.

"When Athens starts to go hungry then maybe the people who run it will start to do business with us," said one of the blockade's leaders.

That, say officials, will be a government no option but to clear the roads by force.

Franco-German drive invites row with Britain

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY and France will today push for greater European integration, foreign and domestic policy-making, further isolating Britain and compounding the crisis besetting John Major.

At a Franco-German summit in the Bavarian city of Nuremberg, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Jacques Chirac are expected to step up their drive for "flexible" pooling of European Union foreign policy-making — effectively allowing some member states to forge ahead unrestrained by the veto of legends such as Britain. They will also call for greater integration in police and home affairs.

The two leaders are to issue a letter ahead of next week's EU summit in Dublin, spelling out further areas in which they favour common and integrated policies.

German and senior EU sources said the joint initiative would focus on police operations to combat international crime, while

supporting Irish-drafted moves to lift border controls within the EU by 2001.

The Irish call, contained in last week's draft EU treaty, is anathema to Britain. The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, who pledged last week to retain British border controls, is due in Bonn tomorrow for negotiations with Manfred Kanther, the German interior minister.

Today's Nuremberg proposal for an integrated police authority, and transnational visa, immigration and justice policies, could trigger a fresh row with Mr Howard.

The present EU chair, Ireland's Taoiseach, John Bruton, conferred with Mr Kohl in Bonn last Friday on the Dublin agenda. Sources said today's summit would concentrate on law and order and immigration.

Mr Kohl is keen to push the Europol police agency, based in The Hague, as an EU equivalent of the United States' FBI. The German justice minister, Edmund Schmiedt-Jorda, said at the weekend that Europol's powers should be extended.

"Europol should be able to conduct its own investiga-

tions in member states," he said. "It has to be our aim to turn Europol into the pan-EU police authority."

Since Germany bears the brunt of immigration from the Balkans and eastern Europe, Mr Kohl also wants common visa, asylum, and immigration policies.

But the French have objections. Despite today's planned show of unity and resolve, the Franco-German partnership is less than all-embracing. Officials from both sides struggled at the weekend to paper over the cracks.

Bonn and Paris are reported to be at odds on the rigorous "stability pact" Germany seeks as the rulebook for the single European currency, on the appointment of an EU foreign policy planning and analysis unit, and on defence and military co-operation.

At their summit in Baden-Baden a year ago, the two leaders agreed to a joint spy satellite project, for which the German defence minister, Volker Rühse, now says there is no money. Yet to cancel it would be highly embarrassing for Mr Kohl.



Two girls light candles below graffiti of the legendary Beatle John Lennon at his memorial wall in Prague yesterday. Dozens of people came here every year to mark the anniversary of the musician's death. PHOTOGRAPH: PETR JERSEK

World news in brief

German to head new Nato force in Bosnia

A GERMAN major-general will become the chief of staff of Nato's follow-on force in Bosnia, German's defence ministry said yesterday.

The officer — whose name has not been released — will take up his post in the new year in the Sarajevo headquarters of the stabilisation force (S-For), which is due to replace the current peace

implementation force (I-For) on December 20.

Germany's role in any peacekeeping operation in the Balkans has long been controversial, both domestically and internationally because of Nazi Germany's second world war occupation and its vicious fight against local partisans.

The German officer will

serve under the United States general, William Crocker, who took control of all Nato-led peace forces in Bosnia in November.

On Wednesday Bonn approved the assignment of up to 3,300 soldiers to S-For. The cabinet agreed Germany could promise ground, air and naval units for the force. — Reuter.

Truce agreed in Bangui

A RMY mutineers agreed on a 15-day truce with the government of the Central African Republic yesterday after mediation by African heads of state to halt a slide into bloodshed, a spokesman for the mutineers said.

The deal was signed during lengthy talks at the French embassy in the capital, Bangui, he said.

The presidents of Gabon, Burkina Faso, Mali and Chad began meetings with both parties on Saturday. Under the deal, Mal's former military leader, General Amadou Toumani Touré, one of a handful of African leaders to hand over power voluntarily, will examine the causes of the crisis. — Reuter.

Thousands in 'race' march

Tens of thousands marched through Melbourne, Australia, yesterday against what they claimed is growing racism targeted at Asian immigrants and Aborigines.

The protest was staged amid a bitter national debate on whether Australia should continue to take in Asian newcomers and on how much should be spent on the welfare of Aborigines. — AP.

Ghana poll race

Ghana's populist president Jerry Rawlings looked to have a fight on his hands yesterday, as his main rival John Kuforor and his opposition alliance edged into an early lead after presidential and parliamentary elections. Provisional results gave Mr Ku-

War on poverty

American heads of state concluded a summit in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, yesterday by calling for an all-out war on poverty to assure protection of the world's habitats and economic growth. — AP.

Dissident jailed

The state security court in Manama, Bahrain, has jailed Abbas Yousef Mohammad, an opposition activist, for three years for joining an illegal organisation. — AP.

Cat soup fine

Lam Yui-tin, aged 39, a chef, was fined HK\$3,000 (US\$750) in Hong Kong yesterday for killing a cat to make a hotpot soup, a newspaper reported. — Reuter.

Transatlantic club to rule on new members

Eastern European hopefuls will be watching tomorrow's Nato meeting with bated breath, report David Fairhall and Ian Black

NATO foreign ministers are preparing to issue the most sought-after invitations of the diplomatic season when they meet this week to decide which of the 11 eastern European countries applying for membership will be successful.

The final choice will not be announced until a special summit next summer, but a shortlist of candidates is bound to emerge from the deliberations in Brussels tomorrow and be passed on to military staffs for assessment.

The shortlist can hardly remain secret for long, so unless Nato's door opens wider than expected, the intervening months are likely to see much recrimination among rejected candidates.

Meanwhile, Nato will do its

utmost to persuade Moscow that an enlarged alliance poses it no threat. One conciliatory move is expected immediately — a declaration from tomorrow's meeting that Nato has no intention of deploying tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of its new eastern members "under foreseeable circumstances".

On Wednesday, the Nato ministers will meet their Russian counterpart, Yevgeny Primakov, to outline their latest position on the creation of a new joint 17-country forum — comprising current Nato members plus Russia — in which Moscow would have an equal say on issues which do not touch upon territorial defence.

The group might well conduct future operations in

Bosnia — where Russian troops already co-operate closely with the Americans. And since Nato council decisions are taken by consensus, Moscow would in effect acquire a veto.

Creation of a joint council would be the centrepiece of a proposed security charter embodying the strategic partnership between Russia and the Atlantic alliance, and emphasising that this goes to reassure Moscow is Nato's offer to re-negotiate the terms of the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

The 11 countries that have expressed clear interest in Nato membership are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Slovenia, Romania, Macedonia and Albania. Of these, only the first three are certain to be successful. Slovenia's inclusion would be important in providing territorial continuity.

Another key question is

limited in scope.

British and Nato officials believe Moscow is now resigned to expansion and ready to discuss a deal. They point to the ritualistic — but relatively low-key — Russian protests on the subject at last week's European security summit in Lisbon.

Among many private and public signals already sent to reassure Moscow is Nato's offer to re-negotiate the terms of the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

The 11 countries that have expressed clear interest in Nato membership are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Slovenia, Romania, Macedonia and Albania. Of these, only the first three are certain to be successful. Slovenia's inclusion would be important in providing territorial continuity.

Another key question is

how Nato enlargement will interplay with the eastward expansion of the European Union. The three Baltic states, for example, are unlikely to be allowed to join the alliance at this stage, but pressure from Germany and the Nordic countries will probably secure them EU membership.

Britain's position is that both the EU and Nato "are not instruments of exclusion but part of a wider framework to enhance the indivisible security of all European states".

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said recently: "We want to proceed with enlargement of both at a measured pace which will foster stability, prosperity and security, not create new divisions."

The trick, now as in 1994, is to convince the Russians of that.

Next: the three frontrunners

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Is it a choice — get a life or keep a job?

Commentary

Linda Grant

Commentary

NEXT week, Central television viewers in the Midlands can watch an interview in which the Speaker of the House of Commons...

It is an utterly bleak portrait of the private life of one of Britain's most respected and well-loved female politicians...

When a male politician resigns to take more time with his family, one assumes the whips have got rid of him in the nick of time...

potentially rewarding, like running the country. They were keen of cloning photo opportunities designed to promote the heterosexual nuclear family...

The next Parliament, whatever the government will have a vastly increased number of women MPs...

A new lease of boyish life granted to them at 50 with the new baby by the Model III wife

eration of men who want to take more part in the upbringing of their children. Could a female Tory MP with a traditionalist Tory male husband survive long in Westminster?

of what ought to be a welcome development. For you cannot expect men to assume new territory for themselves without stamping it with their unique brand of athletic superiority...

The women looked sourly on. They knew that if they had had children they would be sharpening their short-handled pencils now, instead of preparing briefing papers for a meeting.

There is an important lesson here. For God's sake, if you are female, single and value your reputation at work, don't spend too much on clothes and never get a cat.

The Euro in your pocket is devalued



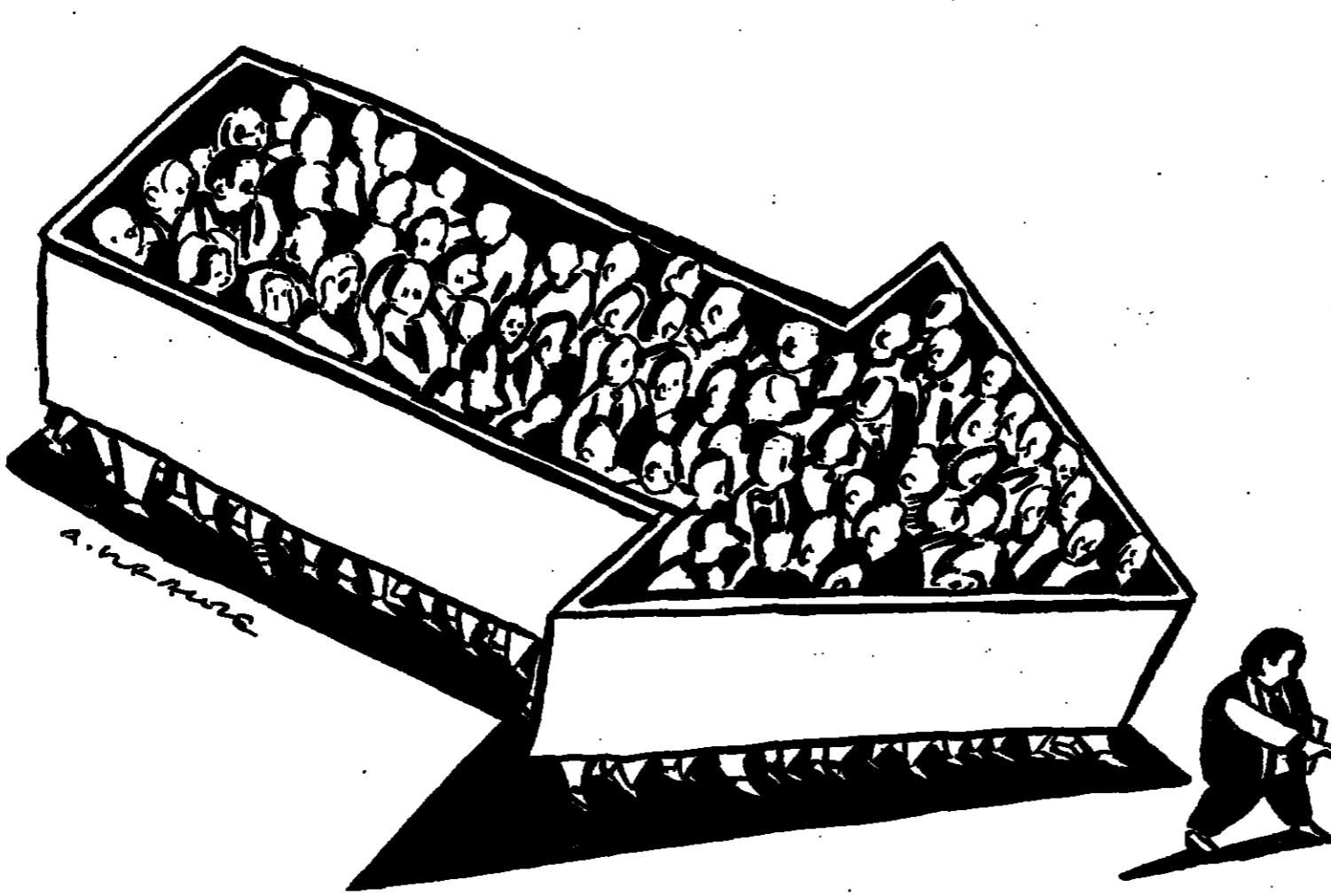
Ros Coward

HAVE you thought about what it will be like shopping with the Euro? Gambling with it? Arranging a mortgage with it? Probably not...

will be the device of the famous statue, the Manekin Pils, which appears on the chocolate Ecu you can buy in Brussels...

More dramatic consequences will emerge when the Euro becomes the only legal currency. We will have to arrive at a new 'psychology' of pricing. Currently, 99p for roll of Christmas paper sounds like good value...

Follow thy leader



Why do those Labour MPs soon to be elected want to be in Parliament? To help their constituents and not themselves to a better life, hopes Gerald Kaufman

ON THURSDAY, a new Labour MP will be elected in the Barmley East by-election. But for a tiny minority, the artificial environment becomes the only life they have...

Most Labour MPs can take or leave this artificial environment. Their sense of reality and commitment prevail. But for a tiny minority, the artificial environment becomes the only life they have...

Friends, by Stephen Sondheim, any stanza of whose songs contains more wisdom than the entire output of these disruptive MPs...

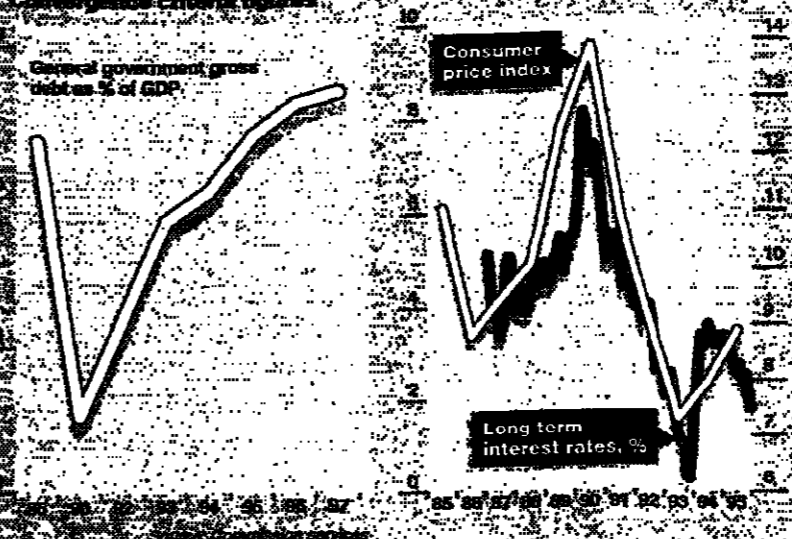
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Single currency



ELECTION BATTLEGROUND/Euro loses its appeal Not a single reason to join

Edited by Larry Elliott

TAKE a little 1960s Cold War ideology, add some 1960s pragmatism and a sprinkling of 1970s German economic miracle. Garnish with 1980s monetarism and there you have it, the euro. A recipe for disaster in anybody's language.

Party as well. Frodded by Robin Cook, the Opposition has managed to disentangle itself from an ill-advised dash to be part of the group of nations that will be the first over the top in 1998.

present a united front has gone with it. The imperative now is to integrate the countries of the former Warsaw Pact into the European trading system through root-and-branch reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

There sounds suspiciously like the weasel words of people for whom it is imperative that the euro goes ahead. There is a real risk that policy for large parts of the EU — especially Britain — will be deflationary when it needs to be inflationary, and expansionary when it needs to contract.

Despite the signs that the single currency will be as out of place in the Europe of the 21st century as a penny-farthing in the Tour de France, there will be those who say that we should go ahead anyway. They point out that Britain was harmed economically by not being a founder signatory of the Treaty of Rome.



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Unity's hand can't be forced

DEBATE/Europe's future is a matter of evolution not design, says SARAH RYLE

Sarah Ryle. FUTUROLOGY, of the sort practised by George Orwell in 1984 rather than by Myrcia Meg of the National Lottery, has featured in debates about Europe since the last century. Michael Emerson, of the Centre for Economic Performance, says in a new paper — Redrawing the Map of Europe — that most attempts to use sociological and technological trends to predict the future have been hit and miss.

single currency — economic stability and international strength — will be achieved whether or not the euro becomes reality for more than the core nations of the European Union. Although the rapid co-ordination of national economies is intended to guarantee these goals, there are well-documented, painful sacrifices, such as the likely increase of joblessness. Mr Emerson notes that the enlargement of Europe could also have drastic economic effects on peripheral nations.

Bourgeoisie fails total recall test

Worm's eye Dan Atkinson

IN THE opening scene of the film Married to the Mob (1988), godfather Tony — Dean Stockwell — finds underling Frank — Alec Baldwin — secretly calling on the godfather's bird. Unwise? So it proves. "I am," declares Tony, "so disappointed in you." He blows him away.

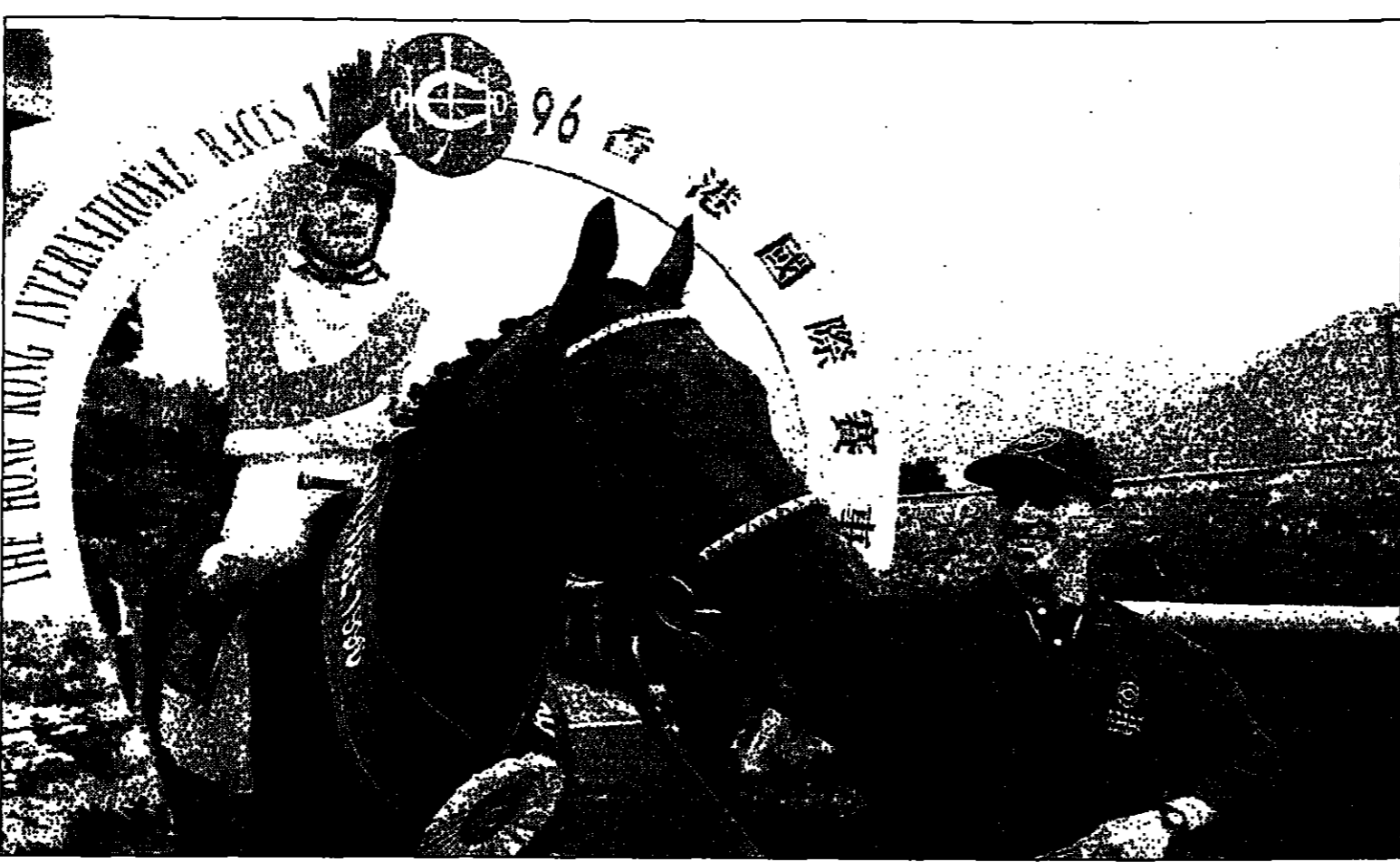
days when everyone else was posing as either right-on pebs or extras from Bridgethead Revisited. But there's only one word for the behaviour of the bourgeoisie in 1996. That's right: disappointing. The year came in with learned tracts on the "chronic insecurity" of "middle England", on the "feel-ghastly factor" and all the rest. Scared, fearful, downcast: the middle class, having ridden high in the eighties, had crashed to earth. Humbled, it would never be the same again.

Racing

Chris Hawkins on a double delight for British runners in Hong Kong

Chinese crackers for Dettori and Hills

SO NOW perhaps the Chinese know what is meant by an English take-away. The British influence in Hong Kong may be on the decline but, as if to emphasise who's still boss, our raiders carried off two of the three valuable international events at Sha Tin yesterday.



Winning salute... Frankie Dettori is led in after winning the International Vase on Luso

Luso, ridden by Frankie Dettori, won the Vase with a first prize of £290,000 for Clive Brittain, while First Island and trainer Geoff Wragg made off with £214,000 after winning the Cup.

For Brittain, who has had an unremarkable season at home, it was further proof of how his crusading approach pays dividends.

Sound Man and Viking Flagship, the two stalwart two milers, treated the Sandown crowd to a thriller in the Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Chase on Saturday.

Whether Sound Man will stay three miles is open to doubt but O'Grady is confident he can teach his charge to relax in the intervening weeks if it is decided to go to Kempton.

Sport in brief

Eagles make swoop for Queensland prop

PHIL LARDER, the new coach of Sheffield Eagles, has made his first major overseas signing with the recruitment of the prop forward Steve Edmed from the North Queensland Cowboys.

Problems mount for Wales

WALES have mounting injury problems as they prepare for next Sunday's international against the world champions South Africa in Cardiff, Wales, who announce their team to take on the South Africans today, have major worries over Gareth Thomas, Robert Howley and Colin Charvis.

Vasquez still the champion

WILFREDO VASQUEZ of Puerto Rico successfully defended his World Boxing Association featherweight title against Chile's Bernardo Mendez in Palm Springs, California, stopping his opponent in the fifth round.

McNulty holds off Price

Mark McNulty preserved his four-shot overnight lead to win the Zimbabwean Open from the former world No. 1 Nick Price and the South African Justin Hobday in Harare yesterday.

Briatore puts foot down

THE Benetton team manager Flavio Briatore has threatened to boycott Formula One races in Italy if there are convictions for the death of the Brazilian driver Ayrton Senna at Imola.

Russian comes out of the cold

IN the most surprising result of the World Cup season Svetlana Gladshiva of Russia raced from near the back of the pack to win a women's Super-G in Vail, Colorado, for the first victory of her 10-year career.

Ludlow card with guide to the form

Table of racing cards for Ludlow, including race numbers, names of horses, and jockeys. Races include 1.40 Sturgeon Lad, 1.10 Cheryl's Lad, 1.40 Glowing Path, etc.

Musselburgh

Table of racing cards for Musselburgh, including race numbers, names of horses, and jockeys. Races include 1.20 Kilmarnock, 1.20 Tropic Dancer, 1.20 Tiger Budget, etc.

Folkestone

Table of racing cards for Folkestone, including race numbers, names of horses, and jockeys. Races include 1.00 Jolly Dab, 1.30 Greenback, 1.00 Danvers Cavalier, etc.

Davis inquest

THE inquest into the death of Richard Davis takes place in Mansfield today. Davis died after sustaining internal injuries to his liver and spleen when his mount Mr. Fox fell at Southwell in July.



Cricket

Tour match: Matabeleland v England XI

Better news from the front

David Hopps in Bulawayo

ENGLAND here here! Howzat! Judging by the banner fluttering from a balloon strung up at the main entrance of the Bulawayo Athletic Club, information seemed to have reached Zimbabwe's second town that the cream of our batsmen were not exactly in the best of nick.

As uplifting news from an England cricket team abroad does not come along very often, we have better make the most of a minor triumph. Telex the foreign ministry and tell them that Matabeleland has been put to flight. Up in the Matopos Hills, Cecil Rhodes's grave must be awash with tears.

Jingoistic nonsense, but after that embarrassing reverse against Mashonaland, what is left of the Empire must long for encouraging news from the front. "Fifty-nine-run triumph in Bulawayo: not many dead." Rejoice, as Lady Thatcher once said of another minor campaign. And rejoice in particular because Michael Atherton's back has responded favourably to injections.

Scoreboard

Table with cricket scores for England XI and Matabeleland. Includes names like N V Knight, M A Atherton, and scores for various matches.

Yesterday he could even delight in a run-out, showing no signs of discomfort as he chased from mid-on and whipped in a low return which left Streak stranded as he was sent back attempting a second run.

"As usual the injections have done the trick," Atherton said. "I feel much better. I enjoyed myself in the field, I was able to bend down and I could move freely when I batted. We put in a good bowling performance and the rustiness seems to be wearing off." England's 210 for nine in this 50-overs contest was about 40 runs short of expectation on a reliable batting surface. But Atherton had played his part, rattling up 28 from 29 balls and gaining an early ascendancy against Zimbabwe's potential Test newball attack.

England's 210 for nine in this 50-overs contest was about 40 runs short of expectation on a reliable batting surface. But Atherton had played his part, rattling up 28 from 29 balls and gaining an early ascendancy against Zimbabwe's potential Test newball attack. Streak and Olonga, before he worked the former to short midwicket. But it was England's bowling that looked most sound yesterday, primarily in consistent new-ball spells from Mullally and Gough, who kept the ball just short of a length and made England's total far more imposing than it deserved to be.

Matabeleland managed only 36 from the first 15 overs as Mullally bowled Craig and had Decker caught at slip. That virtually finished their chances and the departure of James, held at deep square leg by Knight off the off-spin of Gough, and leaving Matabeleland 111 for five in the 32nd over, proved to be terminal. Square-leg catches had been quite a feature in England's innings. Fielders stationed on an enticingly short leg-side boundary, in front of a rather engaging game which seemed well within range, were never unoccupied for too long. Knight, after a frisky half-century, and Thorpe swept the off-spin of Andy Whittall into the deep and Russell followed when he hauled Guy Whittall's full toss skywards.

From the comfort of 96 for one in the 21st over, the Whittall cousins gave England some problems. Andrew Whittall once took 11 wickets in a match against Essex but his threat has not always been so obvious - two wickets at 100 runs each in his three Tests; 10 first-class wickets at a cost of 93 each during his fourth and final year for Cambridge University last summer. Guy Whittall's bowling record in his 16 Tests is almost as modest, but his medium pace collected four wickets as England crept apologetically past 200. Iran's Test prospects were not helped by a difficult innings and fallible bowling.



Fighting fit... Atherton shows no sign of his back problem as he pulls the ball to the boundary. PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS TURLEY

Tennis

Money and power but little drama

Stephen Bierley sees Boris Becker end a hard season with an easy £1m

BORIS BECKER began the year with victory in the Australian Open and ended it in triumph in Munich yesterday with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Goran Ivanisevic in the season's final tournament, the Grand Slam Cup.

This event continues to attract its critics: the American trio of Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Todd Martin pulled out at the last minute while two more, Andre Agassi and the Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek, might as well have not turned up, given their spineless performance.

Next year the Grand Slam Cup will be played in late September which, it is hoped, will encourage the leading players to take it more seriously. But Sampras, the world No. 1, has already said he will not be attending unless he wins a Grand Slam title.

Any winner of the four Grand Slams receives a bonus of \$250,000 merely for turning up here, but even that did not prove enough incentive for Sampras this time.

Axel Mayer-Woelden, the tournament chairman, made a spirited defence yesterday but it was far from convincing. This may be the richest tennis event of all but it is many a long mile from being the best.

Mayer-Woelden, who just happens to be Becker's manager, certainly got the final he wanted although it could equally be argued that it was a final the events of the week deserved - that is, lacking tension and excitement.

This was not Becker's fault. Ivanisevic had beaten him six times before yesterday but on this occasion he never had a prayer. The 29-year-old German was in imperious form, particularly on his serve which the Croatian, who had won here last year, failed to come even close to breaking at any time.

Ivanisevic nearly pulled out of the tournament himself last Monday but apparently could not find the referee to tell him he was sick. A good night's sleep pulled him around and yesterday, as beaten finalist, he became richer by \$812,500, while Becker won \$1,875 million (\$1.17 million) altogether.

He was undoubtedly a little weary after his five-set semi-final victory over the Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov on Saturday, but Becker was totally dominant. A single break in each set was enough for the German; Tim Henman had given him an altogether tougher time in the other semi-final.

There are no ranking points for the Grand Slam Cup. If there were Henman would have leaped several places, although his end-of-year position of 29 is testimony to the progress the British No. 1 has made in the last 12 months. Last year he finished 99th.

There were times in the first set and a half when Henman genuinely troubled Becker with both the velocity and range of his shots. Having said that, the possibility

of an upset was negligible. Henman banked \$270,000 for reaching the last four, doubling his prize money for the year. However, the most valuable aspect for the week was undoubtedly the experience of playing Becker.

Henman had earlier beaten Michael Stich and MaliVal Washington, both ranked in the top 20. "I emphasised to myself that I can definitely play with some of the best players. What I need to do now is compete against the very best and that's something you just can't change overnight." The gulf between Henman and those very top players remains large but it is possible he may bridge it. Possible, but by no means certain, as Becker was quick to point out after their match.

Both Henman and his coach David Felgate know there is a great deal more hard work to be done next year and they are setting about it in an in-

Henman for a time troubled Becker with his velocity and range of shot. But an upset was never on

telligent methodical fashion. Henman's serve has become a potent weapon but now, as Becker remarked, he must follow it into the net more often. As a lesson in serve and volleying, along with almost other aspects of the game, Becker's performance against Ivanisevic was peerless. One thing is for sure, Henman will not be in the least carried away by his success this year. To climb the next rung he knows he needs to work doubly hard and hope above hope he stays free of injury.

Becker was out of action for nearly three months this year after damaging his wrist at Wimbledon. "I could not hold a racket and you start to wonder if you will ever be able to play tennis again."

These are fears all athletes and sportsmen harbour. Becker knew that provided he could regain his fitness then he would be back at the top level and next year he will once again be challenging Sampras for the No. 1 spot.



Becker... imperious form

Symonds takes the Australia A road

Andy Wilson in Sydney

THE Andrew Symonds saga is set to take another twist following his selection for Australia A, who face West Indies in Melbourne on Friday.

The Birmingham-born Gloucestershire batsman had already been ruled out of the Queensland side which plays England A in the final game of their tour starting in Brisbane tomorrow when he was picked for the Prime Minister's XI

against West Indies in Canberra.

That would not affect his eligibility to play for England because it is an invitational fixture. But, if Symonds plays for Australia A, it would be confirmation of the 21-year-old's desire to represent the country where he has spent most of his life and surely put an end to suggestions that he could play for England - although Gloucestershire may still be able to register him as an English-qualified player.

Symonds's selection for the A team comes after a good start to the Australian season, including a rapid Sheffield Shield century for Queensland against a powerful New South Wales team last month.

England's team will depend on a fitness test for Jason Gallian, who has not played since cracking his right index finger three weeks ago. He was hoping to return in the second one-day game against New South Wales in Wollongong on Saturday but was denied

by the lack of suitable nets.

The pitch for Saturday's match was also sub-standard, although Shane Lee was not complaining, the Somerset all-rounder followed Thursday's century with four wickets to reduce England A to 88 for five. But Mark Kalham responded with a belligerent unbeaten 70 from 67 balls until a storm forced the game to be abandoned, leaving England with three wins and a washout from the four 50-over fixtures on this tour.

Warne routs West Indies as Adams whirls into India

THINGS turned out nicely yesterday for the wrist-spinners' union, East of Suez branch, with the left-arm chi-namen of South Africa's Paul Adams destroying the Indian middle order in the deciding third Test in Kanpur and Shane Warne's best-ever one-day figures sending West Indies crashing to another demoralising defeat in Sydney.

The Australia leg-spinner took five wickets for four runs in 15 balls at the SCG, where Brian Lara again under-performed as the tourists mustered only 161. Mark

Waugh batted throughout the home reply, pacing himself to 83 as Australia won by eight wickets to go 2-0 up against West Indies in a World Series also involving Pakistan.

With the series in India tied at 1-1, a tense opening day on a Kanpur pitch already taking spin saw "Frog-in-a-blender" Adams whirl his left-arm way to three wickets in 15 balls as the home side stumbled to reach 204 for six with Sachin Tendulkar on 63. New Zealand ended their tour of Pakistan with a seven-wicket win in Karachi.

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Weekend winners... the Americans Jenni Meno and Todd Sand skate to Japan's NEK Trophy pairs title; Svetlana Gladshiva in a maiden World Cup victory at the Vail Super G; Michael Long becomes only the fifth Kiwi to win the NZ Open

Weekend results

Soccer

FA CUP

Second round

Table of soccer match results for the FA Cup second round, including teams like Arsenal, Liverpool, and Manchester United.

Football

League

Table of football league results for various divisions, including Premier League and First Division.

FA Cup

Third round

Table of soccer match results for the FA Cup third round.

Football

League

Table of football league results for various divisions, including Premier League and First Division.

Rugby League

Super League

Table of rugby league match results for Super League.

Rugby Union

Cougar Club Championship

Table of rugby union match results for the Cougar Club Championship.

Rugby League

Super League

Table of rugby league match results for Super League.

Rugby Union

Cougar Club Championship

Table of rugby union match results for the Cougar Club Championship.

Winter National League

Division One

Table of winter national league results for Division One.

Division Two

Table of winter national league results for Division Two.

Division Three

Table of winter national league results for Division Three.

Division Four

Table of winter national league results for Division Four.

Division Five

Table of winter national league results for Division Five.

Division Six

Table of winter national league results for Division Six.

Division Seven

Table of winter national league results for Division Seven.

Winter National League

Division One

Table of winter national league results for Division One.

Division Two

Table of winter national league results for Division Two.

Division Three

Table of winter national league results for Division Three.

Division Four

Table of winter national league results for Division Four.

Division Five

Table of winter national league results for Division Five.

Division Six

Table of winter national league results for Division Six.

Division Seven

Table of winter national league results for Division Seven.

Winter National League

Division One

Table of winter national league results for Division One.

Division Two

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Division Three

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Division Four

Table of winter national league results for Division Four.

Division Five

Table of winter national league results for Division Five.

Division Six

Table of winter national league results for Division Six.

Division Seven

Table of winter national league results for Division Seven.

Large vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, including 'Jams a', 'part', 'wing ro', and 'SWOO'.

Soccer

Premiership: Arsenal 2, Derby County 2

Adams acts the part in roving role

Russell Thomas

ARSENAL fans were still chanting "Vieira" outside the hostels of Highbury long after his late-resounding shot. Even before the Frenchman's final act at the stadium's big screens frequently flashed out his name.

"They love him here, I think," said Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger, his eyes breaking into a smile. If ever there was a moment for repaying their affection it was on an afternoon when several more familiar Arsenal figures failed to function in the face of a rigorous examination of their championship credentials.

Arsenal paraded a curious mixture of the new and old. Vieira's first goal for the club was one vivid illustration, as was the spectacular headed goal from Tony Adams, revealing in Arsene Wenger's licence to roam. Yet Derby twice exposed a familiar lack of pace at the back before almost withstanding a late Highbury siege.

A more cautious manager than Wenger may well have shut up shop after Adams's diving header gave Arsenal a flattering lead seconds before half-time. After all, Wright and Harrison were being mancoled by McGrath at the heart of a superbly disciplined Derby defence. Merson and Vieira stuttered in midfield.

Derby were encouraged to attack, especially seeking out Sturridge's pace, having noted Adams's forward form. And Lincoln and Brentford were clearly there for turning. Twice, after their second goal, Derby enjoyed numerical superiority close to Lukic's goal; twice an inaccurate final ball let them down.

Wenger recited the familiar lament of fatigue after recent exertions against Tottenham, Liverpool and Newcastle. And, as he confirmed, his players will enjoy their two-week break even more for having extended their lead at the top after another Liverpool lapse at home.

Wenger defended the new licence for Adams and com-

pany to attack; it was Arsenal's captain who also materialised on the byline to help construct Vieira's goal. "You can improve at every age," Wenger insisted. "And I think he [Adams] already has. He likes it, everybody likes it. But the problem is always to find a good balance."

He is also seeking the right balance in Vieira, between his creative and destructive tendencies. The young French midfielder is suspended for the next two games and received a seventh booking for a kick at Assonovic. He was fortunate later to escape another caution, and dismissal after a crunching challenge on Darryl Powell.

Wenger insisted Vieira was "a fair player. He lacks experience; when he makes a foul, it's spectacular. Maybe it's a little bit my fault. I ask him to be aggressive and he sometimes arrives too late."

Arsenal have great faith in Vieira — his six-year contract is twice as long as Assonovic's — and his impact since his £3.5 million move compounds puzzlement over his availability in the first place. "What he became free, I was surprised," said Wenger. "After all, Milan buy a player of 20 and let him go six months later. I advised Arsenal to buy him very quickly."

Wenger insists he is not following the same route for the World Player of the Year. "There is no chance that Arsenal would buy George Weah this season," he said before adding: "After that you never know." More immediate targets are understood to be another Milan player, Zvonimir Boban, and PSV Eindhoven's Wim Jonk, a former club-mate of Bergkamp at Ajax and Internazionale.

With far less resources Jim Smith has bought judiciously in developing a thoughtful, precise team given added durability by McGrath's time. He is defending. Lack of goal power has undermined the team, though seemingly not here when Sturridge out-paced Adams before unleashing a fearsome shot via the bar and Chris Powell outmanoeuvred Lincoln to initiate Darryl Powell's volley.



Descending order... Barnes, Wednesday's Whittingham and Ruddock queue up to contest a header at Anfield. (W.HOOBSON)

No fear, no Liverpool

Liverpool 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1

It is so important to them," said the admirably about this defeat, it may have been to a messy goal but, the contributions of Atherton and Des Walker apart, it was a rather messy game.

Mark Penbridge's shot was drifting well and truly wide until Guy Whittingham's outstretched leg sent it spinning in off the fingers of David Jones.

As Liverpool's concentration wavered and their instinct for self-preservation began to fade, Wednesday's infrequent raids began to hold increased promise and Booth almost doubled their advantage with a fine header which struck the crossbar.

"One morning paper described my team as unremarkable which isn't like," said Fleat. "We have honest players who perform well in week out. It is, perhaps, the realisation that he cannot now make a similar claim which will so hurt Evans."

Long before Wednesday struck the telling blow mid-way through the opening half the groans of discontent were cutting their way through a frozen afternoon. Even Evans admitted that, for all Liverpool's possession and effort, there was an air of inevitability about this defeat.

Atherton and by foul whenever they called upon Degan Stefanovic, a defender bereft of subtly whose tackles set McManaman rattling like a wire coat-hanger in a stiff breeze.

McManaman did not get a kick. A header, yes, but it was to strike the angle of bar and

ditional on entering Anfield. The slight of opponents stampeding at them with a bewildering disregard for logic and reason, snatching the lead and then defending stoutly cannot be wholly unfamiliar to Liverpool and yet, once again, they seemed to be ill at ease and to have no idea what to do about it.

Liverpool do not have a natural ball-winner outside their back line, which makes each and every misplaced pass all the more painful. And there were lots of those here.

Tackles set McManaman rattling like a wire coat-hanger in a breeze

David Fleat has long been lauded, rightly or not, for the thoroughness of his preparation and his ability to second-guess anyone. But it needs no critical genius to work out that Steve McManaman is this Liverpool's heartbeat and that to nullify him is to bolster your own chances.

This Sheffield Wednesday did, by fair means when using the policing skills of Peter

Spurs' swoop snatches Scales

TOTTENHAM's manager Gerry Francis was celebrating last night after succeeding with his 11th-hour bid for the Liverpool defender John Scales, snatching him from beneath Leeds United's nose, writes Ian Ross.

"I'm absolutely delighted to have signed a player of John's ability and quality," said Francis. "It's not often they become available."

After a weekend of deliberation, the 30-year-old former England centre-back decided to join Spurs in a £2.6 million deal under a 3½-year contract with the White Hart Lane club.

It is a major domestic coup for Francis only three days after he completed another £2.6 million purchase, for the Norwegian forward Steffen Iversen from Rosenborg.

Scales would have pledged his future to Leeds on Friday afternoon but for the unexpected intervention of Francis, who rang his counterpart at Anfield Roy Evans to match the bid made by George Graham to make him his first signing for Leeds.

Although Scales was discussed a move to Spurs with Francis on Sunday, it was thought earlier yesterday that the Harrogate-born Scales had plumped for a return to Leeds, where he began his career before leaving on a free transfer in 1985. He joined Liverpool from Wimbledon in 1984 for £3.5 million.

Indeed, Leeds — who entertain Spurs on Saturday — had planned to unveil Scales at a press conference today.

Francis has also remained interested in another Liverpool player, Jamie Redknapp, who is currently unable to claim a regular first-team place and Francis has been considering making a formal offer of around £5 million.

Liverpool value Redknapp at £8 million and would tell any prospective buyer that he is not for sale in any case.

Villa set for six of the best

Expectations run high at Villa Park but we haven't been handing things too well on the whole up to now. But a couple of weeks ago we talked about things and the response has been fantastic. Now we should win things. We've got quite a talented team.

That might be an understatement. After a furious first five minutes in which Watson might have scored twice, Southampton were made to look ordinary as Villa's neat, chessboard style ought to have brought them goals. Townsend, who with Staunton was outstandingly disappointed twice and the enigmatic Milosevic forced Beasant into two superb saves.

What about Milosevic? If the Serb could learn to score goals again he would be a near-perfect centre-forward. He holds the line well, his passing is generally perceptive and his balance, for a big man, is extraordinary. He can also be desperately frustrating. Nonetheless, he helped make Villa's goal, setting up the final. The points were his. We're up there, so let's see if we can handle it.

Marshall best back to front

Jerome Alexander

MARSHALL looks as if he ought to be at the carpenter's bench or an anvil. His hair used to be long but he never went fast enough to make it stream gloriously. It is short now but he still moves like a shire-horse in shoes a size too small. His header, from an acute angle at the far post to Lennon's free-kick, was from three yards, his best distance.

"Happy birthday Colin Hendry from all the girls," flashed the big screen afterwards. He had played otherwise like Cerberus, with a head for every occasion and girl perhaps. But Marshall blew his candles out and left Flowers blushing too.

The fog at its worst had the goalkeepers checking the team sheet to see who their opposite number was. Occasionally they tried a shot. Rovers found one another the better, with their sheeted Lennon shirts and huge numbers on the back in the brass type-face of fancy front doors. Leicester initially compacted in caution — the fog was not that thick — and got nowhere.

Parke insists he does not want the job full-time and believes his successor, to be named soon, will be "someone outside Britain". But he expects to be in charge against Wimbledon on Saturday. Despite Marshall, Blackburn are unbeaten in five matches. Like him, they are making shift well.

Kinnear starts to take things more seriously

Sunderland 1, Wimbledon 3

George Coulkin

JOE KINNEAR talked about playing in Europe and everyone listened. He mused about speculation linking him with the Blackburn job and no one giggled — he does not want it — and he touched on winning the championship — "if we're in this position with six or seven games to go, there won't be a harder team to beat."

They are second now and there was not a single guffaw at the thoughts of the Wimbledon manager. Then Vinnie Jones scolded in and normal service resumed.

A run of 18 games without defeat? "The only other time I've been involved in a run like this is when I've been to a curry house." His no-holds-barred midfield contest with Sunderland's own self-styled hard man Kevin Ball? "Kevin? Kevin who?" Do Jones and his team-mates ever consider the title? "Yeah, we like Mike Tyson; we think he'll win it again."

A disarming reluctance to take themselves seriously is a core reason for Wimbledon's unlikely success. It is about time the rest of the Premier League did, though. Sunderland turned up expecting a bare-knuckle fight and received a humiliating lesson in the finer points. "They were ranting and raving in the tunnel but they came second best," sneered Jones. "We were more controlled."

If the visitors' first goal — a header from the dangerous Efan Ekoku after one of many

flaps by the goalkeeper Lionel Perez — was archetypal Wimbledon, the second and third — a studious exchange of passes before Ekoku thundered home a 17-yard shot and an exquisite side-footed finish from Dean Holdsworth — would have graced Anfield or Old Trafford.

And therein, of course, lies the dilemma for both sides. Wimbledon must be desperate for a bigger stage to weave their home-spin magic whereas Sunderland are at best treading water in the soulless shell of Roker. Those who blame the Taylor Report for killing the atmosphere at games would do well to witness the eerie silence broken only by occasional swellings of noise at glamour games and obligatory booing at half- and full-time — that has become the norm at this broken old ground.

Sunderland may have lost only four home league games under Peter Reid's tutelage but goals have been a rare commodity. Andy Melville's flick from Martin Smith's corner could hardly gloss over a numbing game-long tactic of aiming punts to an isolated Craig Russell.

They could learn from Wimbledon, as Reid because they would. "This is the Foulch Lane of the Premiership," said a misty-eyed Jones. "This is the last one left, and this... this will keep them in the Premiership, this stadium because it's the horrible place to come to — and I mean that in a nice way. They've got to capitalise on that, as we used to do." It was too easy on Saturday.

Zola provides the integration

Chelsea 2, Everton 2

Neil Robinson

AFTER a week in which the Euro-sceptics threatened to get a tooth hold even on Stamford Bridge, it was vital for the health of the Premiership that they were not allowed to run away with the argument.

And John Major please note, 90 minutes of watching Gianfranco Zola was enough to convince that noted Little Englander Joe Royle of the case for further integration.

"The problem arises when someone arrives from Europe with four Cs and two Zs in his name but is no better than those we have here," said Everton's manager. "But Zola was different class."

Indeed he was. Once, maybe twice, a season you witness a player stamp a game exclusively in his own image. On Saturday, from the moment the Italian robbed Barrett to sow the panic that led to his astonishing free-kick goal, Zola was everywhere.

If there was a move to create from the back he instigated it; if there was a tackle to be won in midfield he lunged in with complete commitment; if there was a ball to thread through to Villa he did so deftly. He also took every corner, most free-kicks, and forced Everton to deputise Barrett as a man-marker.

"We didn't want to do it because you have to reorganise in order to accommodate them," said Royle. "But Leeds did it last week and in the end we had to do it."

By the time the change was made Zola had already contributed a second goal, again dis-

possessing the hapless Barrett, exchanging passes with Gullit and then crossing for Villa to head past Southall. But at least Everton's tactical switch eventually took some of the free range out of Zola's expressionism.

It seems extraordinary that in his final days at Parma Zola was deployed as a straightforward striker, a role he never relished. At Chelsea Gullit places no restrictions on Zola's expressionism. He can do whatever he likes. He has proved he can cope with the physical side because, although he is small, he is strong. Like the other Italians, he brings something extra to us.

Zola's one reservation about Chelsea is that his new team-mates do not always read his intentions quickly — a problem which further acquaintance should resolve. Once it does, Chelsea will be very good indeed.

Everton, too, showed plenty of positives with the nascent partnership of Ferguson, that great tree trunk of a striker, and his latest off-shoot Michael Branch looking promising. The big man played a part in the goal, misreading down to set up Branch's equaliser — his first senior goal — and then lofting a perfect ball over Clarke that Kanehesis collected to put Everton ahead.

Afterwards Royle described both sides as wannabes, the sort who should be challenging for the Premiership. A little premature maybe but, then again, who would have thought 12 months ago that little Italy would relocate to the Kings Road?

Celtic lack the strength and fibre of champions

Patrick Glenn

THE essential difference between Rangers and Celtic, the one making the Ibrox club champions and the latter perennial runners-up, became as obvious as a scar at the weekend.

Rangers have more protective layers of skin. When Celtic lose a few first-team regulars — they have without the midfielders McStay and O'Donnell all season and, at Motherwell, Stubbs, Di Canio and Van Hooydonk were also missing quality — they have no resilient quality.

Rangers cope much more easily in similar circumstances. Their deputies stand firm.

Celtic capitulated at Fir Park to a Motherwell side who lost their goalkeeper Howie with a depressed fracture of the cheekbone after an accidental collision with Thom in the 63rd minute.

The home side held out for another 19 minutes before conceding an equaliser to Hay but still had the character to

summon a winner in stoppage time from their substitute Ross. The entire exercise was a damning example of Celtic's lack of resilience.

In their last three matches Celtic have dropped eight points and now trail Rangers by that number, with little evidence to suggest the deficit can be overcome. Without strengthening in midfield especially, Celtic were always likely to be found out. That is now happening.

Rangers, behind twice in the home match with Hibernian — the only team to have beaten them in domestic competition — not only came back to win 3 but helped Ally McColist set yet another record.

The veteran striker's two goals, after Wright and Jackson had scored for Hibs and Ferguson first brought Rangers level, equalled and then surpassed Gordon Wallace's post-war Scottish record of 264 league goals.

Laudrup scored Rangers' fourth before McGinlay's late counter. It was precisely the performance and result Celtic have yet to master.

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attire behind

vay

ngo

Five pages of sport

Racing Frankie Dettori strikes it rich in Hong Kong spectacular

12

Cricket Atherton's men bounce back with a victory in Bulawayo

13

SportExtra



Still no delight for Dowie... the West Ham striker, seeking an end to his lengthening goal famine, goes up with May and Schmeichel without reward during yesterday's Premiership match at Upton Park

PHOTOGRAPHS: TOM JENNINGS

Premiership: West Ham United 2, Manchester United 2

Slipshod champions lose their grip

David Lacey

MANCHESTER United, their place in the European Cup quarter-finals secure, turned to domestic matters yesterday only to find West Ham United reluctant to

be cast in the role of doormats. A win for Alex Ferguson's team at Upton Park would have enabled them to rejoin the leading pack in the Premiership but no sooner was victory in their grasp than it was whisked away by two late goals in two minutes. Anything less than a draw

would have been scant reward for the imaginative attacking football West Ham produced throughout. But for the bulk of the match this was not reflected in their finishing and, when an inspired piece of football from Cantona set up Solskjaer for Manchester United's first goal, to be followed by a typically audacious second from Beckham, it looked as if the game would be won more in the spirit of the wages snatch than the carefully planned bank raid.

This was West Ham's fourth draw in five league matches and they have not won in the Premiership since beating Blackburn at the end of October. However, this performance offered them more encouragement than the bare facts of the result, not least because Harry Redknapp's much criticised Romanian pair Dumitrescu and Raducioiu looked more like the players they had been in the 1994 World Cup.

Dumitrescu began the game, with his compatriot on the bench, but it was Redknapp's decision to bring on Raducioiu, soon after West Ham had fallen behind, which eventually increased the pressure on Manchester United's defenders during the last quarter-hour. West Ham will now expect the pair to imagine they are playing the champions every week.

Not that Manchester United looked much like champions. Injuries in Vienna four days earlier had deprived them of Gary Neville in defence and Keane and Butt in central midfield. Hard though McClair worked, he is no Keane, and the Irishman's pace and strength were badly missed as West Ham hustled, harried and pursued their opponents between the penalty areas.

"At half-time I could see

only one winner," Redknapp reflected later. Certainly West Ham had made a good prima facie case for victory. Manchester United had been unable to keep proper track of Dumitrescu, whose cross was fumbled by Schmeichel before the Dane redeemed himself with the save that denied Hughes a goal from the rebound.

A few minutes later an attempted centre from Dumitrescu ricocheted off May and on to McClair's trailing forearm. When a similar thing happened to Bowen the referee penalised the West Ham defender, but now he waved away their appeals for a penalty.

For all their possession and territorial advantages West Ham still needed luck at the right time if they were to turn their first-half superiority into goals. Their shooting remained distant and awry; their final passes lacked the crucial element of surprise;

Dowie tolled honestly but in vain.

Before half-time the Manchester United attack remained more a matter of theory than practice. Little was seen of Giggs or Cantona and even less of Foborsky, who on being presented with the sight of Dicks advancing on him with the ball appeared to decide that Christmas was a more enticing prospect at that point than a tackle.

Yet West Ham were warned in the 40th minute what the consequences of their failure to score might be. Cantona headed Giggs's cross on to Solskjaer, who controlled the ball with a flick and a nudge before bringing Mikosko into urgent action for the first time, the West Ham goalkeeper turning the shot around a post.

The portent was not false. Eight minutes into the second half Cantona's superb through pass sent Solskjaer clear of a square defence to

draw Mikosko before beating him with a low shot. As Dumitrescu swerved past two defenders before driving the ball a fraction wide of the far post West Ham looked far from done for but in the 75th minute Raducioiu spun past Johnson on the left and, with Schmeichel anticipating a shot inside his near post, drove the ball past the goalkeeper into the far corner.

In the 79th Dumitrescu's through-pass found Hughes sprinting clear of the last defender. Schmeichel brought

for a crude foul on Beckham — West Ham appeared done for. They had scored only 13 league goals all season and now they were two down with time running out.

Then it all changed. In the 77th minute Raducioiu spun past Johnson on the left and, with Schmeichel anticipating a shot inside his near post, drove the ball past the goalkeeper into the far corner.

In the 79th Dumitrescu's through-pass found Hughes sprinting clear of the last defender. Schmeichel brought

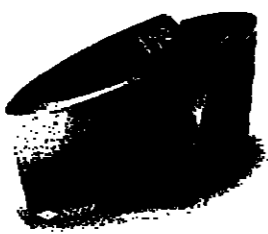
him down. Dicks put away the penalty as only Dicks can and suddenly West Ham were blowing bubbles again, leaving Ferguson and his team feeling a little flat.

"We didn't deserve to win," said the Manchester United manager gallantly. "and West Ham at least deserved a draw." But, if Old Trafford wants to make a serious impact in the Premiership, United will not want to make a habit of losing two-goal leads.

Other reports, pages 22, 23

MORSE

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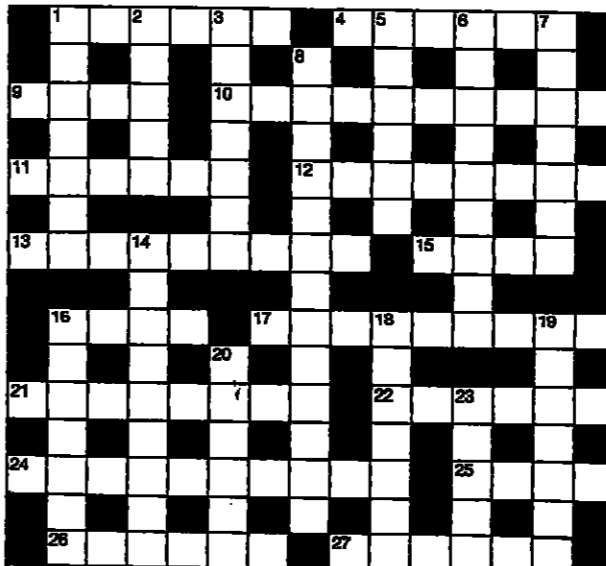
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It was never, its creator insists, designed to titillate sad, middle-aged men. Instead, "it is meant to be a celebration of women in the 1990s". Of course, it got an awful lot wrong. The return of the Girlie Show

G2 page 4

Guardian Crossword No 20,831

Set by Rufus

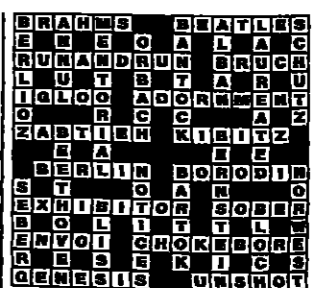


Across

- 1 Chess champion (8)
4 It shows the quality of petrol supplied at once (8)
9 Hitch horse to pole (4)
10 Another bloody hold-up! (10)
11 Address for delivery? (8)
12 Fear of redundancy drove them to breaking point (8)
13 Bring in present (8)
15 The mark of the restorer (4)
16 A mild imprecation — here's an example (4)
17 Took an attitude over something that's beneath you (8)
21 Countryman may help you when lost (8)
22 Plant entirely consumed by a greedy creature (6)
24 Mint a copper sovereign (10)

Down

- 1 Pink gin ordered for a V.I.P. (7)
2 One loses one's head when in a corner (5)
3 At heart he'd a desire to get married (7)
5 Country girl on the vessel (6)
6 Current left off, having been discharged (8)
7 Always the first to set out for the mountain (7)
8 Spare lockers? (3,4)
14 Decree nisi may result when one leaves home (8)
16 Sharpshooter employed in the rigging (7)



Winners of Prize Puzzle 20,824 This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary will appear in the paper tomorrow.

- 18 Free from sailor's love entanglement (7)
19 Saving firm beset by money trouble (7)
20 He talked to the Carpenter about cabbages and Kings (6)
23 Not the first to change roles (5)

Solution tomorrow

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